

## 2016 Poetry Out Loud State Finals

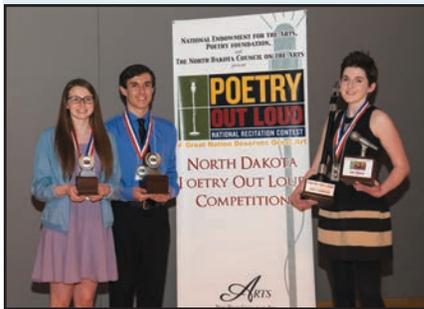


Rebecca Engelman, First Lady Betsy Dalrymple, Caroline Huber, Beth Klingenstein and Andi Mathis

The North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA) announces Caroline Huber of Minot High School, Magic City Campus, as the 2016 State Champion and first place winner of the *North Dakota State Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest*. Zach Howatt of Northern Cass High School received second place honors. Placing third was Emily Schmidt of Mandan High School. Caroline Huber will advance to the National Finals in Washington, DC in May, where a total of \$50,000 in cash and school stipends are awarded. This year's North Dakota Poetry Out Loud State Finals competition took place on Monday, March 14, at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck.



2016 POL participants



Top three winners

Provided in partnership with The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Poetry Foundation, and North Dakota Council on the Arts, Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the mastery of great poetry by offering educational materials and a dynamic competition to high schools across the country. Poetry Out Loud uses a pyramid structure; beginning at the classroom level, winners advance to the school-wide competition, then to the state competition, and ultimately to the National Finals in Washington, DC.



Jesse Veeder



Emcee Elizabeth Gross, First Lady Betsy Dalrymple, Poetry Out Loud Coordinator Rebecca Engelman, and special guest Andi Mathis from the NEA, presented the awards to the participants. All participating contestants received a \$20 book store gift card and a certificate of participation. Each lead teacher received a participation certificate. First place winner Caroline Huber received a trophy, medallion, \$200, plus an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC. Caroline's school, Minot High, will also receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books and the honor of displaying the POL Traveling Trophy. Second place winner Zach Howatt received a trophy, medallion, \$100, plus \$200 for his school library. Third place winner Emily Schmidt received a trophy and medallion.

Live entertainment during the event was provided by Trio Apollo of Bismarck and Jesse Veeder of Watford City. For further information on Poetry Out Loud, visit [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org), or contact Rebecca Engelman at (701) 328-7593.

## North Dakota creative aging program leveraged with Foundation support

A recent \$100,000 Community Creativity Cohort grant from the Bush Foundation is enabling NDCA to expand its creative aging work. Through its Art for Life program, NDCA supports arts activities—such as combining traditional dance and a mobile painting device—in eldercare facilities in an effort to improve the emotional and physical well-being of aging North Dakotans. *(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*

Dr. Beth Gigante Klingenstein, Executive Director North Dakota Council on the Arts

**The Power of Grassroots Efforts**

While on a vacation years ago, I asked to be seated in a restaurant's no-smoking section and was told "the whole restaurant is smoke-free." It was my first exposure to a complete smoking ban and I thought, "I bet this restaurant goes out of business soon!" Today smoking bans are commonplace and research acknowledges their many values. How did life-changing support replace marginally impactful requests? There were certainly those who opposed such bans, but the grassroots support of smoking bans was powerful - and businesses, community leaders, and legislators listened and responded.

What would it be like if all artists, arts enthusiasts, and arts organizations got behind a similar all-encompassing, active, and pervasive grassroots effort to support the arts in North Dakota? After all, research supports the many rewards the arts bring to individuals and communities. How powerful would it be if all of us spoke up, passionately and repeatedly, about our desire to see the arts strongly supported in our state?

All of us here at NDCA will continue to work our hardest to champion the arts and we appreciate working with/for you more than can be expressed. But how might we all contribute to a statewide grassroots effort for life-changing support of the arts? My hope is that everyone who cares for the arts will contact school officials (both local and state), speak to community leaders and state legislators, and write letters to the editor. Here are two area that are currently of particular importance:

**Education:** This is an extremely important time for arts education in our state! The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has just been passed. ESSA affirms that the arts are part of a well-rounded education, allowing more freedom for each state to decide how it wishes the arts to be included in K-12 education. We are facing a wonderful opportunity that we don't want to lose! All State Departments of Education are required to consult with stakeholders on the development of an accountability plan and on the use of federal funds such as Title I and II. Local education agencies are also required to develop local plans for how to proceed with ESSA and the use of school funds. Imagine the impact if thousands of North Dakota residents contact local school boards, state education officials, parent groups, and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction insisting that the arts be a part of a well-rounded education in every North Dakota school! I doubt that such a collective voice would be ignored.

**Legislature:** The vote for the next biennial budget will take place next year. Legislators need to hear how we feel about the arts now (before they are in session). Imagine the power we wield if each one of us contacts one or more of our legislators in some personal way, such as inviting him/her to coffee, talking on the phone, sending a handwritten letter, or inviting him/her to attend or even speak at an arts event. Legislators need to know that thousands of us appreciate how the arts contribute to the vibrancy of our communities, the quality of life within our state, the education of our students, and the health and wellness of our citizens. I have been told that very few people actually contact legislators here in ND, and yet they are extremely open to hearing from us. Now is the time to increase arts funding, not decrease it or let it go flat. There is power in numbers, and our collective voices will make a difference!

I so hope that such a grassroots movement will take place in our state - I would love to hear from you about your efforts!

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



NDCA, along with the offices of Governor Jack Dalrymple, First Lady Betsy Dalrymple, and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, are exhibiting the works of Fargo artist Elizabeth Schwankl at the Capitol Building in Bismarck during the months of April, May and June. Schwankl'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.

Elizabeth Schwankl (pronounced shwonkel) was born and raised in Minnesota. She has lived all of her adult life in Fargo. She and her husband, Bill, have two sons both now living in Bozeman, MT.

She has been a professional artist since 1989. Her professional training has come through nationally known artists such as Judi Betts, John T. Salminen, Cheng Khee Chee and Carl Dalio, among many others.

The name of her business is ARTrends Gallery. She creates art in her home studio and meets with clients in her South University office in Fargo. Her work has garnered numerous awards in regional and national art exhibitions. She is a signature member and past board member of the Red River Watercolor Society, and she has served as a juror of art fairs and the 2013 Student Art Exhibition at M State/Moorhead. Elizabeth was voted 'People's Choice for Favorite Artist' at the Street Fair in Fargo, and at the 2012 Artists Celebrating Christ (ACC) Art Show in Bismarck.

Elizabeth served on the Core Building and Liturgical Devotional Committees for the building of Sts. Anne and Joachim Catholic Church in Fargo, painted a 15' x 19' mural for the church's Grief Shrine in 2012, and restored many of the church's statues.



As a member of the FM Visual Artists, Elizabeth takes part in the annual Studio Crawl every fall. She was awarded a grant from NDCA allowing her the experience of spending two separate weeks working one-on-one with a master iconographer. She was selected to paint a life-size bison for the LAAC 'Herd About the Prairie' which took top bid at the auction. In March of 2010 she was a featured artist at the Bismarck Arts and Galleries Association. Tim Ray included Schwankl in "Abstract 100 - 31 Artists - Abstract Art Southern Red River Valley 1954 - 2010" Exhibition and Catalog at MSUM in 2010.

Her multimedia paintings range in style from non-objective abstract acrylics (such as the 33 hung in the award-winning Ramada Hotel in Fargo) to near photo realistic works (such as the Bishop's portraits she was commissioned to paint, which now hangs in the Bishop's residence in Fargo). To contact or learn more about Elizabeth Schwankl and her artwork, visit <http://elizabethschwanklart.com>.



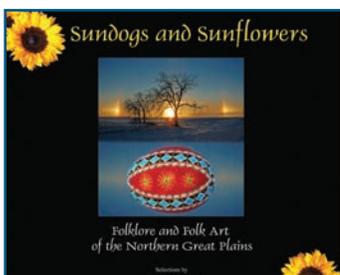
## North Dakota creative aging program leveraged with Foundation support (continued)

With the grant's unrestricted funding, NDCA is developing a toolkit to help care providers, visiting artists, family members and volunteers to perceive, conceive and conduct art activities that promote well-being. The toolkits, which will be available to every eldercare facility in the state, are being designed by North Dakotan fine artists and folk artists, including those working with folklorists as well as those working with physicians, speech therapists, nurses or other health care professionals.

So far, the draft toolkit includes more than 50 activity plans, all inspired by NDCA's *Sundogs and Sunflowers: Folklore and Folk Art of the Northern Great Plains*, as well as two CDs with guided imagery and American Indian flute music. Additionally, it presents a method of creative storytelling that helps people with dementia more fully experience art.

To learn more, visit <http://www.nd.gov/arts/programs/art-for-life> or contact NDCA's Folklorist, Troyd Geist.

~ Article reprinted from the National Assembly of State Art Agencies February 2016  
NASAA Notes State to State section



## **Ten North Dakota students receive National Medals in 2016 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards**



**Scholastic  
Art & Writing  
Awards**

Each year, the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers partners with more than 100 visual arts and literary arts organizations across the country to bring the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards to local communities. Teens in grades 7 through 12 apply in 29 categories of art and writing. Submissions are juried by luminaries in the visual and literary arts, some of whom are past award recipients. Panelists look for works that best exemplify originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision.

The Scholastic Awards are the largest, longest-running scholarship and recognition program for creative teens. The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers has a proven track record of identifying creative leaders and providing the nation's most creative students with life-changing opportunities for recognition, publication, exhibition opportunities, and scholarships.

From an initial pool of nearly 320,000 submissions 2,400 works of art and writing earned a National Medal. The ten North Dakota National Medalists include:

- Evin Avery of Fargo, North High School, awarded Silver Medal in Personal Essay/Memoir for "Love Lessons"
- Gabrielle Feather of Belcourt, Turtle Mountain Community Middle School, awarded Silver Medal in Poetry for "Where I Am From"
- Sophie Glessner of West Fargo, Sheyenne High School, awarded Silver Medal in Dramatic Script for "Sonder"
- Nick Hoidahl of Grand Forks, Community Alternative High School, awarded Silver Medal in Critical Essay for "The Jungle: Sinclair's Unintended Impact"
- Zach Howatt of Hunter, Northern Cass High School, awarded Silver Medal in Science Fiction/Fantasy for "The True Meaning of Christmas"
- Beatrice Kjelland of Park River, Park River High School, awarded American Voices Medal in Personal Essay/Memoir for "A Whole New World"
- Katie Snyder of Grand Forks, Schroeder Middle School, awarded Silver Medal in Flash Fiction for "No One Was Home"
- Breanna Sullivan of Grand Forks, Grand Forks Central High School, awarded American Visions Medal in Drawing and Illustration for "Urban Fungi"
- Heather Talma of Fargo, North High School, awarded Gold Medal in Flash Fiction for "The Water Prince"
- Megan Vetter of West Fargo, Sheyenne High School, awarded Silver Medal in Writing Portfolio for "Straw Gods, Stick Truths, & Brick Beliefs" and awarded Silver Medal in Drawing and Illustration for "More Air"



Students receiving top Awards and their educators will be honored at a National Ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City on June 2. Artwork from students earning Gold Medals will be featured in an exhibition at Parsons School of Design. A selection of students receiving Awards for writing will have their work published in the Alliance's annual anthology *The Best Teen Writing*.

The 2017 Scholastic Awards will open for new applications on September 14! For more information visit <http://www.artandwriting.org/the-awards>.

## “Yes, I am Free: The Inspiration of Dance and Paint”

“Yes, I am Free: The Inspiration of Dance and Paint” is a video that highlights a one-of-a-kind special project within the North Dakota Council on the Arts’ “Art for Life Program.”

The program seeks to combat senses of loneliness, boredom, and helplessness and to improve the emotional and physical health of elders in care facilities through intensive arts and artist interaction.

This project combined four types of traditional or folk dance and a mobile painting device to create four massive 12' x 15' contemporary paintings. Imagine elders leaving marks on the canvas with their feet, canes, and walkers dipped in paint as they dance upon the canvas. Then

imagine a “fifth wheel” attached to a wheelchair to allow people with mobility issues, some quadriplegic, to create broad calligraphic brush strokes upon that same canvas.

By joining the creative talents of highly mobile traditional artists with people in eldercare facilities who may have somewhat limited to greatly limited mobility, by using adaptive technology, and by working together to create artistic works on a grand scale that are both traditional and contemporary, visual and performance, the elders move beyond their limitations, both real and perceived, both self-imposed and imposed upon them. This truly inspirational video can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/user14965043/north-dakota-council-on-the-arts>.

## NDCA Professional Development recipient receives Music Teacher of the Year award

Sunrise Elementary School music teacher Joan Riley was awarded the North Dakota Music Educator of the Year by her peers in January. Riley has applied for funding from NDCA’s Professional Development grant program to participate in the annual American Orff-Schulwerk Association conference. She has implemented the Orff Schulwerk music teaching method into her curriculum by integrating music, movement, speech, and drama for the students since 1989. She has been teaching in Bismarck and Mandan for 34 years. The Orff Schulwerk music teaching method teaches the students life skills and creativity. Congratulations to Joan!

## The Arts Partnership wins local award



The Arts Partnership was honored to win the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau (FMCVB) Pineapple Award for the organization that has contributed most to tourism, promotion, development, and hospitality during the past year on Tuesday, March 29, 2016. Executive Director Dayna Del Val thanked her small but mighty staff and expressed gratitude to the FMCVB for recognizing the work The Arts Partnership does to amplify the arts in the community, both for the benefit of the arts and for the greater metro’s economics, employee attraction and retention, physical and mental health, education and quality of life work.

The awards were made by Fargo-Moorhead artist Karman Rheault.

*Photo credit, The Arts Partnership*

## Making music last a lifetime...



*Terri Aldrich*

Denisse Cameron announced in January 29th that Terri Aldrich will be the new owner of the Children’s Music Academy in Minot, ND.

Leaving a business that is also a passion is never easy. Fifteen years ago Denisse began building the Children’s Music Academy from a single class to a bustling studio centrally located downtown in Minot’s new Artspace building. She employed five instructors and delivered the curriculum to hundreds of students and their parents. The CMA slogan “Making music last a lifetime” thus became a reality.

Terri Aldrich is the Executive Director of the Minot Area Council of the Arts. Last year, Mrs. Cameron approached her with the opportunity of purchasing CMA, and an agreement was reached. Aldrich said “I intend to continue Mrs. Cameron’s work at the Children’s Music Academy and uphold the standards of excellence and service that she has put in place. My dream and vision for the past 16 years has been to help build our community through the arts. Working with children and parents at CMA will help me further realize that dream”.

Aldrich will continue at the Minot Area Council of the Arts until the close of the fiscal year. Matthew Maldonado and Eric Thoemke will be Co-Executive Directors of the Minot Area Council of the Arts in beginning in July.

## Painting for the public: Art project takes shape across Grand Forks region

Hillary Kempenich said moving, sanding and priming an upright piano inside the buildings of Altru Health



System caused quite a stir March 8. As she used a small paintbrush to create bright green leaves on the piano later that afternoon, Kempenich said she's excited to be a part of Project 88, a public art initiative.

"I know public art projects can be hard, but people don't normally think of this space as public, so it's different," she said. Her piece was on the second floor lounge of the Altru Rehabilitation Center.

Kempenich's design was inspired by her daughters, aged 8 and 11, and features brightly colored birds, foliage and bicycles. She applied online to be a Project 88 artist.

Project 88 is a coordinated effort between the Grand Forks Public Arts Commission, North Valley Arts Council, University of North Dakota Student Group Project 88 and the Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand

Forks (Minn.) and Region.

In East Grand Forks, Mary Ann Austin's Project 88 piano titled "A Secret Place," which features birch trees and flowers, sits outside Mama Maria's restaurant in the River Cinema Mall.

Artist Lillian Stegman also painted her Project 88 piano in the Grand Cities Mall in March.

The pianos are the second large Public Arts Commission project this year, according to Forum News Service archives. The first was "Ghosts," which featured farm equipment that was painted white and installed in January in a field along South 42nd Street in Grand Forks.

Kempenich said the piano she worked on is fully functional, and her daughters joined her as she worked on the piece.

~ Article by Anna Burleson and courtesy of the Grand Forks Herald. Photo credits: Anna Burleson, Forum News Service <http://www.inforum.com/variety/3987539-painting-public-art-project-takes-shape-across-grand-forks-region>



## Governor's Photo Contest for Travel and Tourism

The North Dakota Governor's Photo Contest for Travel and Tourism celebrates the talents of North Dakotans and the scenic beauty, adventure, wildlife, places and people they enjoy here. The contest is open now through August 31, 2016. This contest is a partnership of the Office of Governor Jack Dalrymple, AAA, North Dakota Tourism and the North Dakota Council on the Arts. The Contest is open to photographers who are 18 years of age or older who are legal residents of North Dakota. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Entry deadline is August 31, 2016.

Photos should show North Dakota's appeal as a travel destination. Contest categories include: Adventure and Recreation, Places to Visit, Events, People, Scenery, and Wildlife. Only North Dakota residents are eligible. Photos must have been taken in North Dakota, preferably within the last three (3) years.

One winner will be selected in each category and a \$200 cash prize will be awarded to the photographer of each selected photo. Additional honorable mentions may be selected in each category, with photographers receiving \$50 and North Dakota Legendary merchandise. A Best of Show photo will be selected from the winning photographs, and the photographer will receive an additional \$300 cash prize and free, one-year basic membership to AAA.

Winning photographs will be published in North Dakota Tourism's 2016 promotional materials and website. Winning photographs will be eligible for display in AAA North Dakota branch offices and may be printed in AAA regional publications. Winners will also be published in North Dakota Tourism's newsletter and likely in future promotional publications and marketing efforts.

Winning photographs will be displayed in the North Dakota Capitol during the fourth quarter of 2016, through a partnership with the North Dakota Council on the Arts. To learn more and to enter your photo(s) visit <http://www.ndtourism.com/blog/2016-governors-photo-contest>.

## 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).

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"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).

# Moorhead woman preserves history through ancient art of birch bark biting

Denise Lajimodiere is resurrecting a dying art. “It died out in my tribe,” the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa member said. “It’s almost a lost traditional art.”



About eight years ago, the Moorhead woman started practicing the ancient art of birch bark biting. She was inspired to learn the technique after purchasing a biting of a dragonfly at an art show. The artist, Kelly Church, of Michigan, became Lajimodiere’s mentor.

“She sent me all the tricks of the trade and got me started, and I’ve been doing it ever since,” Lajimodiere said. “I practiced for about four years before I felt good enough to start framing and selling.” The traditional name for the art form is Mazinibakajige, which means “marks upon the bark,” Lajimodiere said.

She creates her designs by folding thin layers of birch bark and biting patterns into them. “There’s nothing you can do wrong,” she said. “There isn’t any design that doesn’t turn out beautiful.”

Lajimodiere gathers birch bark in the spring in a process that involves a ceremony for the tree. “We do no harm to the tree,” she said.

She starts peeling the bark into thin layers that will become the base for her artwork in the summer and does most of her biting in the winter.

“It’s a very calming and peaceful and healing art for me to do,” she said. She typically creates designs of flowers, turtles and dragonflies. Her favorite design is the dragonfly.

“A lot of tribes have traditional stories about the dragonfly,” she said. “They bring healing. We believe they can even carry the spirits of our ancestors down to visit and watch over us. When they land on you and move their feet, we believe they’re cleansing you of something.”

Lajimodiere’s home is adorned in dragonfly decor—some of it is birch bark biting artwork.

“Birch bark means a lot to Ojibwe people,” she said. “It was our food utensils, it was our canoes, our homes, it was our medicines, our baskets. I like the feel of the birch bark. It’s almost therapeutic. I’ve had a rough year. To sit and peel is very relaxing.”

The Ojibwe artist is also a poet, writer and assistant professor in North Dakota State University’s School of Education. She recently spent six months teaching a young Ojibwe woman, Megan Sennie, the art form as part of the North Dakota Council on the Arts Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program.

“It was wonderful to have a young girl from my tribe who I could pass it on to,” she said. “It’s a legacy.”

Sennie said she is also a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and she saw the apprenticeship as a good opportunity to learn an Ojibwe folk art form. “I felt grateful to be able to learn it once I knew its history and how rare it was,” she said. “I also saw it as an opportunity to become closer to my culture since I had been seeking to do so for a while.”

Sennie recently moved to Alaska from Fargo but said she brought some bark with her and plans to continue practicing the art. “I think that the whole thing is more than just art, it’s preserving history,” she said.

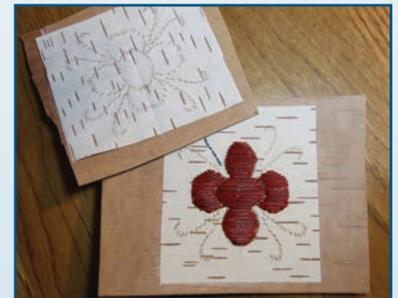
Troyd Geist, a folklorist with the North Dakota Council on the Arts, said it’s important these traditions are not only kept alive but are also encouraged to grow.

“The art of Ojibwe birch bark biting is very rare,” he said. “The techniques, process and aesthetics are a reflection of a body of traditional knowledge. It is this knowledge that is important, and it is transferred to new generations in its most potent way—by actually engaging in the art.”

Lajimodiere said she plans to teach as many people the technique as are interested. She is now working on adding dyed porcupine quills and beads to some of her biting designs.

She sells her work at art shows. It will also be on display at the Plains Art Museum in Fargo through May 22 as part of the museum’s Emerging Visions exhibition of emerging Native American artists in the region.

In November, Lajimodiere was selected for a Minnesota Historical Society Native American Artist-in-Residence award. The program is designed to help revive traditional forms of American Indian art. Lajimodiere will serve a six-month paid residency to study her art form and share her knowledge by developing community-based programming.



~ Article by, and reprinted with permission of, Tracy Frank, *The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead*. Photo credits: David Samson / *The Forum*  
<http://www.inforum.com/shesays/3957142-moorhead-woman-preserves-history-through-ancient-art-birch-bark-biting>

# Creativity among Native American Artists

Creativity among Native American Artists (CANAA) is a Plains Art Museum initiative that focuses on three main areas of endeavor.

- Integrating Native artists from Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Wisconsin into the Museum's ongoing activities, including exhibitions, artists programs, workshops, residencies, and professional development training.

- Conducting outreach throughout the region to identify and connect with Native artists, ascertaining their needs, and developing a network to link them to the resources of the Museum.

- Growing the understanding and appreciation of the artists' work with broad audiences. Providing Native American artists greater opportunities to share their work with broader audiences, achieve more recognition, and further develop their careers and livelihoods.

CANAA will involve Native American artists in programs and exhibitions at the Plains Art Museum and partner organizations. It will provide an artist-in-residence program each year. The artist will work with at least one apprentice as well as other students, and will make use of studio spaces and supplies in the Center for Creativity. It will also offer at least two to three artists' talks, demonstrations, and/or discussions each year.

Programs and exhibitions at partner sites will be at tribal colleges and art centers close to where Native artists and Native populations live, thereby making the work accessible without long driving distances.

The sites will be researched and cultivated, with the goal of creating two partnerships in the first year and four in the second and third years. The criteria will include their receptivity and readiness to engage with Plains Art Museum; their access to appropriate spaces for display of artwork; and their abilities to reach out to their audiences to engage them with the art and artists.

Native Americans of all ages reached through Native American organizations will see and learn about Native artists in Museum exhibitions and programs and at partner sites. Small and large exhibitions of both solo artists and group shows at Plains Art Museum, periodic small exhibitions at partner sites, and public programs that feature Native artists as leaders and teachers will bring higher visibility to Native artists, their work and their ideas.

Promoted to general and Native American audiences, these activities will increase knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of Native American art, values, world views, and histories among both audience groups.

A network of Native American artists is being developed to include them in the arts ecologies in our region. It will also increase artists' awareness of each other, and will provide a means of communication for museums, curators, collectors, and galleries.

To learn more contact Laura Youngbird, Native American Arts Program Director at (701) 551-6119, or [lyoungbird@plainsart.org](mailto:lyoungbird@plainsart.org).

~ <http://plainsart.org/learn/native-american-artists/>

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## Theatre B to change venues

After spending 10 years at its current home of 716 Main Avenue in Fargo, the time has come for Theatre B to search for a forever home. "We know we need a real home. In the meantime, we want to put our resources into the art, not a space," says Lori Horvik, one of Theatre B's founding members. "When we find the right place for us and for the community, we will invest in that place. We are looking at this as an adventure, a decision that takes courage and commitment." A big part of that commitment is to the Fargo-Moorhead community. While the company searches for a permanent home, they are looking for short-term performance space within the two cities. Scott Horvik, another co-founder, says, "Maybe we'll have a transition home before we find the right one; you know, hang out at a couple of friends' places for a while. We'll still be here, involved in the community."

The company is applying their celebrated creativity to their search for a performance space. The theatre is seeking proposals to temporarily house the ensemble in new and surprising locations. The company hopes to activate unlikely buildings and neighborhoods while creating another season of engaging art. The proposals are open to anyone with space located in the Fargo-Moorhead area. The ideal space would be 2,500-5,000 square feet, have no posts or have widely spaced posts, a minimum ceiling height of 14 feet, and have wheelchair accessibility.

Co-founder Carrie Wintersteen sees these short-term homes as a "Win-Win," for the owners and developers who may choose to host Theatre B and its company. "Theatregoers spend time and money 'out on the town,' and nearby amenities benefit from a regular flow of artists and a diverse audience. We will bring vitality to unexpected spaces and, just like our art, we'll encourage people to see the spaces in a new light." The Request For Proposals can be found at <http://theatreb.org/AboutUs.aspx>. For other inquiries contact Carrie Wintersteen at (701) 729-8880 or [carrie@theatreb.org](mailto:carrie@theatreb.org).

## Annual Square Foot Show call for entries

Bismarck Art & Galleries Association (BAGA) announces a call for artists for the Annual Square Foot Show, which takes place August 2-26, 2016. Canvases are currently available at BAGA located at 422 E. Front Avenue in Bismarck, ND. The registration deadline to enter is June 30, 2016. For more information and the prospectus, visit [www.bismarck-art.org/uf/Entry%20Form.pdf](http://www.bismarck-art.org/uf/Entry%20Form.pdf).

## Americas 2016 All Media

The Northwest Art Center in Minot announces a call for artists for the Americas 2016 All Media show. The deadline for submitting entries is June 1, 2016 (postmark). Works in any medium, traditional or experimental, qualify. For more information visit [http://www.minotstateu.edu/nac/pdf/am\\_2016.pdf](http://www.minotstateu.edu/nac/pdf/am_2016.pdf).

## Pekin Days Art Show call for entries

The Nelson County Arts Council's Pekin Days Art Show takes place June 23-26, 2016. The show is open to all artists 18 years and older. This is a juried exhibition and all work must be for sale. The deadline to enter the Pekin Days Art Show is June 4, 2016. For more information and prospectus visit <http://www.nelsoncountyarts.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/PDAS-Call-for-Entry-20161.pdf>.

## NDAGA 2016 call for artists

North Dakota Art Gallery Association (NDAGA), a nonprofit organization of galleries from the Upper Midwest, is seeking proposals for solo or group exhibitions for 2017-2018. NDAGA works hard to establish artist and gallery connections for possible exhibition. In the fall of each year the gallery directors from North Dakota and surrounding states hold their annual conference. It is at this time that proposing artists have the opportunity for their work to be reviewed for possible exhibition. These traveling exhibitions are promoted throughout the Midwest to regional gallery and museum directors and curators. As well, honorariums are paid to chosen artists to tour their work. Member artists are eligible for exhibition review privileges without a fee. Artists working in any medium are encouraged to submit their art. A copy of the prospectus is available at [www.ndaga.org/index.cfm?page=opportunities](http://www.ndaga.org/index.cfm?page=opportunities). Please contact us at [ndaga@ndaga.org](mailto:ndaga@ndaga.org) for further information. Entry deadline is August 31, 2016.

## Artist in Residence opportunity

The Arts Center's Artist In Residence Program serves K-5 students in all six Jamestown elementary schools following the school calendar. Residency options include a fall semester and a winter/spring semester, or both. Artists follow a visual arts curriculum structured on basic design elements working with teachers and administrators. The resident artist may use the rest of the day and the weekends for personal studio time, including access to the pottery studio and print shop, and teaching classes at the Arts Center.

Artists who are contracted far enough in advance (at least 6 months) may have the opportunity to exhibit in the Arts Center Gallery while they are in residence. Stipend Includes: furnished living quarters (a two bedroom apartment above The Arts Center studio space) classroom supplies, and hourly compensation for teaching. Artist is responsible for his/her own meals, etc.

The Arts Center is operated by the Jamestown Fine Arts Association, which has been in existence for over 50 years. The Center's current facility was renovated in 2012 and features a 2000 sq. ft. exhibition space, a performance/stage area of approximately 400 sq. ft., and a classroom used for all media and exclusively for children's classes. In 2009 the Arts Center added an annex called the Hansen Arts Studio, which includes one classroom dedicated to ceramics and kiln operation, an adult art classroom, and the Arts Center is in the process of developing a print shop.

To apply submit your resume to The Arts Center (visual artists should submit up to 20 JPEG images of personal and student work), as well as contact information for references (one personal and two professional) via E-mail to [artsed@jamestownarts.com](mailto:artsed@jamestownarts.com). Selection is based on artistic merit and quality of teaching curriculum; the selection process is ongoing.



# Arts North Dakota



Dayna Del Val, president of Arts North Dakota

## AND holds successful Arts Advocacy Conference in Fargo

By Dayna Del Val, Arts ND Board President

Nearly 80 people joined Arts North Dakota (AND) for an all-day conference around advocacy and the arts in Fargo at Plains Art Museum on March 7. About half the audience was from the Fargo-Moorhead metro, with the other half coming from across the state, as far away as Minot, and nearly one quarter were University students. The group was a general mix of arts leaders and artists as well as a few arts supporters. All in all, we had an eclectic, engaged and interesting group of people.

A panel of state elected legislators discussed important ways to communicate with the legislature and encouraged everyone to contact their legislators before the legislative session begins.

Ryan Taylor, director of USDA Rural Development for the state, was the keynote speaker and talked about how his agency has worked with rural towns all over the state to restore historic buildings and bring about growth through economic loan investments and grants for the arts.

The final panel of the day consisted of area business leaders and locally elected people. They discussed why the arts have been important to the overall success of their various cities.

The conference had excellent audience participation with great questions and conversations. We learned a lot of new information from our speakers and heard that our Adopt a Legislator program is exactly the kind of thing AND should be working to grow.

Thank you to all the panelists and Ryan Taylor, Plains Art Museum for being an excellent host, Ecce Art Gallery for hosting our after-conference reception, Maestro Christopher Zimmerman, Executive Director Linda Boyd and the FM Symphony Orchestra for wrapping up our evening and to everyone who attended. This work is vital to the future of arts funding in this state, and I appreciate so many people taking a full day to

learn more and to get involved with Arts North Dakota.

If you are feeling like you want to get active before the next legislative session begins, please go to [artsnorthdakota.com](http://artsnorthdakota.com) and sign up with the *Adopt a Legislator* program. We must let our voices be heard regarding funding and support for the arts at a state-wide level, and this is a fabulous, personal way to do that.



# National News

## Recent report shows that the Arts and Cultural Production contributed \$704.2 billion to the U.S. Economy in 2013

Today's creative economy gets a big boost from the arts, according to recent data from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. The latest figures cover 1998 to 2013 and they spotlight fast-growing arts industries, export trends, employment figures, consumer data, and more. In 2013, arts and cultural production contributed \$704.2 billion to the U.S. economy, a 32.5 percent increase since 1998. Another key finding is that consumer spending on the performing arts grew 10 percent annually over the 15-year period. The Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA) is the first federal effort to provide in-depth analysis of the arts and cultural sector's contributions to the economy.

"The new data show that the production of performing arts services has grown at a faster clip than arts and cultural production in general, contributing \$44.5 billion to the U.S. economy in 2013," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "Notably, the ACPSA reveals that Americans are choosing to spend more on performing arts events such as concerts, plays, and dance performances. This tells us that the arts remain a valuable and desirable commodity for U.S. consumers, and that the arts are a strong contributor to America's economic vitality."

The new estimates were adjusted for inflation, resulting in more accurate trend analysis for the 15-year period ending in 2013. To learn more visit <https://www.arts.gov/news/2016/arts-and-cultural-production-contributed-7042-billion-us-economy-2013>.

## AFTA welcomes new Director of Local Arts Services



Ruby Lopez Harper

Americans for the Arts (AFTA) welcomed Ruby Lopez Harper as the new Director of Local Arts Services as of January 2016. Harper will serve as the primary expert and partner to the 4,800 local arts agencies and other local-level arts and cultural service organizations in the United States. She will be responsible for shepherding an ambitious 10-year vision for increasing the relevance of arts and culture in American communities, working in conjunction with team members and the rest of Americans for the Arts. Harper joins Americans for the Arts after serving nine years as Grants & Services Director at the Greater Columbus Arts Council in Columbus, Ohio.

"It's wonderful to welcome Ruby to the Americans for the Arts staff team" says Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. "Ruby's long association with Americans for the Arts, including her time as a member of the Americans for the Arts Emerging Leaders Advisory Council, as well as her stellar work in Columbus and beyond, will no doubt be a great benefit to the organization, to our members, and to the national arts and culture field." To learn more visit [www.americansforthearts.org/news-room/press-releases/americans-for-the-arts-hires-ruby-harper-as-the-director-of-local-arts-services](http://www.americansforthearts.org/news-room/press-releases/americans-for-the-arts-hires-ruby-harper-as-the-director-of-local-arts-services).

## Impact of arts on early learning

According to new research analysis released by The Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, the integration of the arts into early childhood education can increase math achievement by the equivalent of a month of additional learning, according to a study conducted by the American Institutes for Research. Arts-integrated teaching includes the use of singing, dancing, roleplaying, and storytelling when teaching core subjects like literacy and math. To learn more visit [www.wolftrap.org/education/institute-for-early-learning-through-the-arts/impact.aspx](http://www.wolftrap.org/education/institute-for-early-learning-through-the-arts/impact.aspx).

## NEA encourages artists to join the conversation at Creativz.us

**C R E  
A T I  
V Z**

CREATIVZ.US is a component of the National Endowment for the Arts' Creativity Connects initiative. CREATIVZ.US is designed to inspire a conversation about what artists in the United States need to sustain and strengthen their careers. In the last few months CREATIVZ has published a series of essays each week by a variety of artists and art thinkers. Many have been generous in re-sharing and adding to the conversation. The NEA's goal is to hear from as many artists and artist support providers as possible. You can follow CREATIVZ on Facebook and Twitter and by using #creativz. To learn more visit <http://creativz.us>.

### 2016 Americans for the Arts Annual Convention



Registration is now open for the Americans for the Arts 2016 Annual Convention! This June 17–19, more than 1,000 arts professionals, community leaders, government officials, artists, and students will gather in Boston to exchange ideas and engage in passionate dialogue about art and culture in America.

Boston is the perfect setting for this year's Annual Convention, with a rich history, a world-class array of traditional arts and culture, and an unmatched collection of universities. From vibrant neighborhoods and a bustling waterfront to stunning theaters and music venues, there is no shortage of New England charm and valuable creative expression. As our country experiences great changes, join us to reflect on the past and explore how the arts transform America's communities to make them healthier and more vibrant and equitable for the future!

Visit <http://convention.artsusa.org/> to register, view the Schedule At-A-Glance, and to learn more about the sessions and speakers.

### Alliance of Artists Communities' 2016 Conference

Tuesday, October 4, through Friday, October 7, 2016, join arts leaders, funders, policy-makers, board members, educators, and artists from across the globe as support for today's artists and artist-centered approaches to engaging our communities and developing healthy organizations are explored. The Alliance of Artists Communities' 2016 Annual Conference will be hosted in Portland, Oregon, and all are welcome! From nuts-and-bolts sessions on organizational development, to interviews with artists on creative practice, to conversations exploring cultural trends and the role of artists in society today, and tours of Portland's thriving arts centers - join the conversation!

To learn more visit [www.artistcommunities.org/conference](http://www.artistcommunities.org/conference). NDCA Professional Development funds may be available to attend this conference. Applications must be in by September 5, 2016. To learn more visit [www.nd.gov/arts/grants/general/professional-development](http://www.nd.gov/arts/grants/general/professional-development).

### American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) 2016 Team Conference



Hosted by Des Moines Community Playhouse August 19-21, 2016, in Des Moines, IA, the AACT is offering an expanded educational conference with four tracks, focusing on theatre education programs, artistic direction of a theatre, development and marketing, and technical theatre. Come as an individual or a team. Select the track that best suits your individual needs. Get even more out of the conference by putting together a group--the four tracks will be held simultaneously, so participants can share rides and rooms. The insights you gain will pay for the conference registration many times over. To learn more and to register visit [www.aact.org/2016-team-conference](http://www.aact.org/2016-team-conference). NDCA Professional Development funds may be available to attend this conference. Applications must be in by July 15, 2016. To learn more visit [www.nd.gov/arts/grants/general/professional-development](http://www.nd.gov/arts/grants/general/professional-development).

## Start planning your events now, October is National Arts and Humanities Month

National Arts and Humanities Month (NAHM) is a coast-to-coast collective celebration of culture in America. Each year since 1993, NAHM has helped give millions of Americans the opportunity to explore new facets of the arts and humanities in their lives and has encouraged them to begin a lifelong habit of active participation. National Arts and Humanities Month's four primary goals are to: create a national, state and local focus on the arts and humanities through the media; encourage the active participation of individuals, as well as arts, humanities and other interested organizations nationwide; provide an opportunity for federal, state and local business, government and civic leaders to declare their support for the arts and humanities; and establish a highly visible vehicle for raising public awareness about the arts and humanities.

In towns and communities across America, arts organizations are planning and developing events, celebrations and innovative programming to highlight National Arts and Humanities Month. Throughout the month of October, special events will capture the spirit that the arts and humanities bring to everyday life. In particular, cultural organizations are being asked to do the following: participate in the month-long celebration with an already-scheduled activity or a new event, large or small, that will be free and open to the public. Events could include a free performance, lecture or reading; a behind-the-scenes tour, a workshop, a concert or a festival. An open house is a great way to invite the community to join with your organization in celebrating the month. You may also want to obtain a proclamation from your elected officials and submit articles and opinion editorials to newspapers and magazines about the value of the arts and humanities.



To learn more about how you can participate in Arts and Humanities Month visit <http://www.americansforthearts.org/events/national-arts-and-humanities-month>.

## 2016 Arts Midwest Conference

Enjoy four days in Milwaukee, Wisconsin networking, learning, and experiencing live performances at the preeminent booking and education conference for the Midwest performing arts industry. The Conference takes place Tuesday, September 13 through Friday, September 16, 2016.



Join 1,000 performing arts professionals comprising artists, managers, and agents; performing arts presenters; and arts administrators from throughout the United States and beyond.

Presenters from the Midwest 15-state region gain access to performing artists and ensembles spanning nearly every discipline. Whether you're a small series, university, or large performing arts center, there's so much to discover and explore together.

Exhibitors include self-represented artists, independent managers, global agencies, and everything in between. The Conference offers numerous opportunities to connect with presenters in the exhibit hall, during networking events, and at live performances.

The Conference also welcomes Service Organizations and other attendees, including national, regional, and state arts boards, and community arts councils. Whether it's your first or 29th Conference, all attendees form an inclusive and welcoming community where you can reconnect with colleagues as well as expand your network.

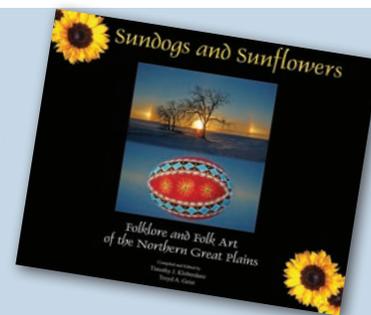
To learn more and to register, visit <https://www.artsmidwest.org/programs/conference>. NDCA Professional Development funds may be available to attend this conference. Applications must be in by August 15, 2016. To learn more visit [www.nd.gov/arts/grants/general/professional-development](http://www.nd.gov/arts/grants/general/professional-development).

## Prairie Arts

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

### NDCA CDs and publications available

The *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.



#### 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
- *Sundogs and Sunflowers: Folklore and Folk Art of the Northern Great Plains*, by Timothy J. Kloberdanz and Troyd A. Geist. \$14.84

To order the three following CDs call Makoché Studios at (701) 223-7316

- *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

#### 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)