



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Art50!  
Exhibitions celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
North Dakota Council on the Arts**

The North Dakota Art Gallery Association (NDAGA) and the North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA), with support from Starion Bank, organized two exhibits to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the North Dakota Council on the Arts. The exhibits display the artwork of 50 North Dakota artists, as well as the work of the exhibit curator. One of these exhibits is displayed in the Heritage Center, and the other is a touring exhibit that will travel the state during this anniversary year. A catalog highlighting the works in both exhibits will be available to purchase for \$10 through NDAGA's office. A PDF file is also available online at <http://www.nd.gov/arts/sites/default/files/PDFs/art50catalogweb.pdf>.

The Heritage Center exhibit will be displayed from October 28, 2016 through April 30, 2017; and the touring exhibit will be displayed from October 2016 through December 2018, please visit <http://www.ndaga.org> for more information.

“As we enter our anniversary year, it is good to remember how the agency was founded. Two years after national legislation created the National Endowment for the Arts in 1965, the North Dakota state legislature established the North Dakota Arts and Humanities in 1967, as an official agency of the State of North Dakota. In 1980, the official name was shortened to the North Dakota Council on the Arts.

During NDCA's fifty years, it has provided varied services to the citizens of North Dakota. The agency addresses the need for creativity in public education and enhances arts education. NDCA increases the economic impact the arts have on our state and on local communities, improves the wellness of our citizens through the use of arts programming, preserves our cultural heritage through folk and traditional arts mentorships, and enhances the quality of life for all of our citizens.

We would like to thank the North Dakota State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts for funding our state agency for the past 50 years. Thank you also to Starion Bank for their continued support of the arts.”

*~ Beth Gigante Klingenstein, PhD; Executive Director*

Art lovers are encouraged to let others know how much they appreciate the role the arts can and do play in North Dakota's wellbeing, community pride, tourism and economic development.

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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.

The North Dakota Art Gallery Association (NDAGA) is a nonprofit corporation organized in 1975. Administered by a board of gallery member representatives, the Association provides professional training opportunities, while coordinating common information and services for gallery personnel and the Association members. The North Dakota Art Gallery Association recognizes and honors outstanding contemporary, folk, and traditional visual artists.

Starion Bank is a \$1.2 billion family-owned community bank and financial services organization. It offers the same services and technology as the large, national banks, but with personal service, local decision-making and a deep dedication to the communities it serves. Since opening its doors in 1969, Starion Bank has been a proud supporter of the arts, believing the arts enrich the quality of life in a community. Across its 15 locations, Starion provides broad support to local organizations ranging from music and dance to theater and visual arts for artists of all ages.