INTRODUCTION

In April 2019, the North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA) administered an on-line survey as part of the agency's comprehensive strategic planning process. Constituent surveys are a common and effective way public agencies collect input from citizens and stakeholders to evaluate programs and priorities and to inform strategic planning. This survey provided candid feedback for NDCA on specific questions related to programs, services and satisfaction. NDCA consulted with the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) to design, administer and analyze this survey. As the nation's service organization for state arts agencies, NASAA has vast experience consulting on state arts agency planning processes and creating similar surveys for states to better understand constituent needs.

NDCA and NASAA designed a process to reach out to a list of more than 1,400 individuals taken from the full breadth of NDCA's constituent lists, as well as mailing lists from other organizations. Focusing on this list served several purposes in administrating and designing the survey. First, it allowed for a wide geographic reach across the state. Second, allowed for NDCA to learn from different types of known stakeholders and to better analyze responses from each of these groups. The survey received 314 total responses.

In addition to questions asked of all respondents, the survey asked targeted questions to four distinct groups of North Dakotans: individual artists, those affiliated with arts organizations, arts educators and those affiliated with non-arts organizations. This segmentation allowed for input from a variety of viewpoints, giving NDCA well-rounded data to inform its strategic plan. The survey and analysis revealed many findings relevant to NDCA's strategic position, as well as challenges and opportunities moving forward.

ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS

Respondents by Region Map
Findings:
- The survey received 314 total responses from artists, arts organizations, arts education, and other relevant organizations from every region in North Dakota.

### Primary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Percent of Responses</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artist or creative practitioner</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts organization staff, volunteer or board member</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educator or arts educator</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other organization (non-arts) staff, volunteer or board member</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporters</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ORGANIZATION RESPONDENTS

Annual Operating Budget
N = 126

- $1,000,001+ 19%
- $500,001-$1,000,000 9%
- $250,001-$500,000 12%
- $100,001-$250,000 14%
- $50,001-$100,000 10%
- $25,001-$50,000 10%
- Less than $25,000 19%
- I'm not sure 7%

NDCA Grant Applicant
N = 126

Findings:
- 75% of responding organizations had applied to NDCA for funding.
- 10% of responding organizations have not applied and most frequently cited that NDCA grants were not relevant.

NDCA Grant Recipient
N = 94

Findings:
- Of the organizations that applied for funds, 88% were NDCA grant recipients.
**Type of Grant Received**

N = 83

- Institutional Support: 62%
- Community Arts Access: 12%
- Special Projects: 12%
- Art for Life: 10%
- Not sure: 10%
- Artist in Residence: 6%
- Professional Development: 5%
- Arts in Education Collaboration: 2%

**Findings:**
- 62% of grantees responding to the survey received institutional support.

**Benefits of Receiving NDCA Grants**

N = 82

- Helped achieve artistic goals/mission: 83% Strongly agree, 13% Agree
- Improved the quality of activities and services: 77% Strongly agree, 21% Agree
- Increased organizational visibility: 63% Strongly agree, 33% Agree, 4% Disagree
- Helped pay artist fees or employee salaries: 66% Strongly agree, 23% Agree, 6% Disagree
- Made work accessible to underserved community members: 66% Strongly agree, 26% Agree, 7% Disagree
- Added prestige to our organization: 55% Strongly agree, 38% Agree, 4% Disagree
- Supported activities that helped the local economy: 58% Strongly agree, 27% Agree, 11% Disagree
- Strengthened financial or management practices/operations: 47% Strongly agree, 38% Agree, 7% Disagree, 6% Strongly disagree
- Helped attract additional funds: 42% Strongly agree, 36% Agree, 11% Disagree, 10% Strongly disagree
- Helped attract partnering organizations and opportunities: 36% Strongly agree, 42% Agree, 7% Disagree, 14% Strongly disagree
- Helped children succeed in and out of school: 45% Strongly agree, 29% Agree, 25% Disagree
- Increased creative engagement opportunities for seniors: 43% Strongly agree, 25% Agree, 28% Disagree

**Findings:**
- 83% of organizations strongly agreed that their NDCA grant helped them to achieve artistic goals and 77% strongly agreed that their NDCA grant improved quality of activities and services.
- Top benefits of NDCA grants were consistent by organizational budget size, however, mid-range organizations responded with greater agreement regarding the NDCA grants helping them attract additional funds.
Other Benefits of NDCA Grants

Select Write-in Responses:

**Advance Mission and Work**
- Introduced students to cultural activities that very few would experience on their own.
- It has definitely helped lower income families and children attend and participate in our programs and events.
- Our participation in NDCA grants has always allowed us to significantly stretch our expectations and achievements.
- The NDCA grant is one of the most through grants that we apply for and, as such, it helps us to hone in on our mission, values and strategic plan. There is great value in working through that process with our staff and Board.

**Stability and Sustainability**
- The NDCA grant that our organization has received is crucial and vital to its success and sustainability. Our existence and the irreplaceable benefit that we have on children is not possible without this support.
- Sustained funding over three years helps us manage our time and projects better. Institutional support is critical, with fewer and fewer funders offering it. So much time and energy is wasted on project support, when General Operating Support is much more efficient and effective.
- Provided financial stability when other income sources were decreased.

**Stamp of Approval**
- This is perhaps implied in the "Helped attract partnering organization and opportunities" sub-question above, but it is worth stating that support from NDCA is an important stamp of approval in the arts community and in North Dakota in general. Not only are the Institutional Support dollars absolutely vital to our success -- actually, vital to our survival -- being able to demonstrate the NDCA stamp of approval registers, in peoples' minds, that our organization IS the top-notch organization that we say it is.

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? My organization is:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>No opinion or N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serving diverse communities and audiences</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Able to make programs and spaces accessible to people with disabilities</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financially stable</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using internal practices that promote equity</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding the next generation of staff/leaders</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Able to recruit a diverse board</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepared to survive a disaster such as fire or flood</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Able to recruit a diverse staff</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Findings:
- 92% of responding organizations agreed or strongly agreed that they serve diverse communities and audiences.
• 88% of responding organizations agree or strongly agree that they are able to make programs and spaces accessible to people with disabilities.
• Organizations are less confident about their abilities to recruit a diverse staff and board as well as their emergency preparedness.
• Organizations with mid-range budgets ($100K to $500K) have lower confidence in their emergency preparedness than large or small organizations.

**Top 4 Professional Development Topics**

*N = 122  Max. answers = 4 (if answered)*

### Topics by Weighted Rank Score

- **Fundraising**: 208
- **Community engagement**: 156
- **Marketing**: 121
- **Board recruitment/development**: 114
- **Strategic planning**: 112
- **Audience development**: 112
- **Developing new partnerships**: 95
- **Grant writing**: 74
- **Diversity, equity and inclusion**: 62
- **Networking with similar organizations**: 52
- **Using technology**: 40
- **Financial management**: 39
- **Working with special needs populations**: 24

**Findings:**
- Fundraising and community engagement were the highest ranked professional development needs among organizations.

### Other Professional Development Interests

**Write-in Response Themes:**
- Board/volunteer development
- Fundraising
- Organizational development
- Program and audience building

**In addition to funding, what else does your organization need to thrive and succeed?**

**Write-in Response Themes:**
- Audience and member engagement
- Board member-related
- Exposure and marketing
- Money-related
- Organization planning and development
- Public support and engagement
- Staff-related
- Space-related
- Volunteer-related
- Youth and next generation-related
INDIVIDUAL ARTIST AND EDUCATOR RESPONDENTS

**Portion of Livelihood from Artmaking**

N = 126

- All or nearly all: 17%
- More than half: 6%
- About half: 9%
- Less than half: 26%
- Very little or none: 43%

Findings:
- Only 17% of responding artists said that they receive all or mostly all of their livelihood from artmaking.

**NDCA Grant Applicant: If Not, Why Not? (Artists and Educators)**

N = 95

- I didn’t know about grant opportunities: 33%
- I doubted I could receive a grant: 25%
- I didn’t meet the requirements to apply: 22%
- The grants offered aren’t relevant to my work: 18%
- Other: 18%
- I thought the process was too hard: 14%
- I only just learned that I could: 8%
- The grant amounts are too small to be worthwhile to me: 6%
- I was turned down in the past: 1%

Findings:
- 54% of responding artists had never applied to NDCA for funds, 48% of responding arts educators had never applied to NDCA for funds. This was primarily due to not knowing about opportunities or not thinking they were eligible in one way or another.
Type of Grant Received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Grant</th>
<th>Individual Artists</th>
<th>Educators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master Apprenticeship</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist in Residence</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Projects</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts in Education Collaboration</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Findings:
- Of those who applied for NDCA grants, 61% of responding individual artists and 89% of educators received funding.

Benefits of Receiving NDCA Grants (Individual Artist)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Percent of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helped me offer my work as a learning experience for others</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhanced the quality of my work</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Created new professional opportunities in my career as an artist</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helped me achieve my artistic goals</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased my visibility as an artist</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Added prestige to my work</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helped me develop my skills as an educator</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helped me do something new or innovative</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Made my work accessible to the public</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helped me attract additional funds</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Made my work accessible to underserved community members</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthened my business practices</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Findings:
- 79% of individual artist grant recipients strongly agreed that the grant helped them offer work as a learning experience to others. This finding could be due to 38% individual artists grant recipients receiving master apprenticeship awards.
Benefits of Receiving NDCA Grants (Educator)

N = 24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>No opinion or N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helped the community to discover the value of arts education</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helped me develop my skills as an educator</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4% 4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helped me address ND State or National Core Arts Standards</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhanced the schools’ existing art programs</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Created new professional opportunities in my career as an educator</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4% 17%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Created new partnerships for my classroom or school</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased school and district leadership support for future arts programs</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%  Percent of Responses

Findings:
- 100% of arts educator grant recipients agreed or strongly agreed that their award helped the community to discover the value of arts education.

Other Benefits of NDCA Grants

Select Write-in Responses:

Connections
- Expanding the network of those connected to Arts Education
- Networking, connections, public relations
- Exposure to other artists nationally. Brought me closer to valuable resources. Helped me network in my field.
- Expand arts education and ongoing projects into rural ND. Helped make connections to key people in the arts.

Inspiration & Growth
- Deepened my work and clarified career pathway
- The grant allowed my artistic confidence to grow immensely.

Knowledge / Capacity
- Also, I cannot express what a treasure Troyd is. His work ethic is exceptional. His knowledge undeniable. God Bless you Troyd.
- The grant received helped me have a better understanding in the need for Arts Advocacy on a state and federal level...
Top 4 Professional Development Topics (Individual Artists)
N = 163  Max. answers = 4 (if answered)

Topics by Weighted Rank Score

Findings:
- Marketing, audience development, community engagement and advocating for arts programs were the highest ranked professional development needs among artists.
- Write-in responses reiterated themes related to accessibility and inclusion, connections, education and business development.

Other Professional Development Interests

Select Write-in Responses:

**Accessibility / Inclusion**
- funding for artists with disabilities

**Business**
- Marketing
- Sales
- E-commerce, wholesale, hiring an assistant
- Website development and maintenance
- Partnerships with gallery's

**Connections**
- Networking

**Education**
- Curriculum content
- New ways of incorporating art into the general curriculum.
- STEAM integration

**Related to Current NDCA Programming**
- Aging Artists - Creating and funding Permanent Repositories for their work
- How to get into creating public art
In addition to funding, what else do you need to thrive and succeed?

Write-in Response Themes:
- **Access and equity**: education opportunities to learn best practices and models to ensure access for all abilities and identities.
- **Audience, market, employment and pay**: assistance building audiences, marketing work, growing networks, and reaching agricultural communities/remote areas.
- **Community support**: need for more community support and involvement, community arts events and media coverage of events.
- **External value, encouragement and internal purpose**: challenge to find reasons to make art, cultivate a sense of belonging and educate the public on the legitimate role of arts and artists in society.
- **Institutional support**: visibility and administrative support for arts education, support for the arts in government affairs and public relations.
- **Professional and artistic connections**: cultivating networks and partnerships, need for mentors and connections to community institutions.

**QUESTIONS FOR EVERYONE**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding access to the arts for North Dakotans?

N = 313

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>No opinion or N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts activities are close enough that I can access them</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts programs are affordable</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts events in my community are culturally diverse</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>5% 5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are enough opportunities to experience the arts in my community</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is enough available space for arts programming in my community</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>18% 4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are enough artists in my community</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>13% 10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts funding is a priority for government leaders</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>27% 8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation options to arts events are available</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural areas offer enough arts resources</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Findings:
- 77% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that rural areas offer enough arts resources, this response was similar from urban and rural respondents.
- 75% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that arts activities are close enough for them to access, however, there was more agreement with this statement for urban dwellers.
- 75% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that arts funding is a priority for government leaders, this response was similar from urban and rural respondents.
## Satisfaction with the Services of NDCA

**N = 313**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency of communications</th>
<th>Very satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very dissatisfied</th>
<th>No opinion or N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff responsiveness</th>
<th>Very satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very dissatisfied</th>
<th>No opinion or N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The advice or technical assistance provided</th>
<th>Very satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very dissatisfied</th>
<th>No opinion or N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ease of applying for grant funds</th>
<th>Very satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very dissatisfied</th>
<th>No opinion or N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality of convenings</th>
<th>Very satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very dissatisfied</th>
<th>No opinion or N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Findings:**
- Of those familiar with NDCA, there were high levels of satisfaction across multiple service areas.
- NDCA grantees reported slightly higher levels of satisfaction than non-grantees.

## Most Important Information to Receive from NDCA

**N = 310**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Slightly Important</th>
<th>Not important</th>
<th>No opinion or N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts events happening in North Dakota</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News about the arts or creativity</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of the impact or benefits of the arts</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDCA grant opportunities</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stories celebrating the artists and arts organizations of North Dakota</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional development opportunities</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-NDCA funding opportunities</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;How-to&quot; toolkits or training</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts management best practices</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job opportunities in the arts</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Findings:**
- Respondents were most interested in learning about arts events and happening in North Dakota from NDCA. Organizations were very interested in learning about grant opportunities.
### Important Roles for NDCA

**N = 312**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Slightly Important</th>
<th>Not important</th>
<th>No opinion or N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advocate for policies that encourage the arts</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen arts education opportunities for children</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen arts education opportunities for adults and aging populations</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support arts organizations through project-grant funding</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support individual artists through grant funding</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support arts organizations through operating-grant funding</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preserve and promote North Dakota's folk and traditional art forms</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote diversity in arts programs and audiences</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the arts to attract visitors to the state</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measure the impact of the arts</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support individual artists through services other than grants, such as artist rosters, training and networking</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support arts organizations through services other than grants, such as technical assistance, training and networking</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Findings:**
- Respondents identified many important roles for NDCA with advocating for policies that encourage the arts and strengthening arts education opportunities for children being the most important.
In NDCA’s 2018 listening tour, many people in the arts community expressed concerns about a sense of isolation. How could NDCA help you create more meaningful community connections through the arts?

Number of write-in responses: 136

Findings:
- Respondents identified the themes of events, networking and utilizing communications technology as ways to create more meaningful community connections through the arts.

Select Write-in Responses:

**Art and/or Artist Events**
- Have interactive arts events.
- Organizing showcases both virtually and in real time and space.
- Quality of arts events rather than frequency of arts events.
- North Dakota is a fairly large state from a geographic standpoint, and the population is sparse between major cities. Maybe some kind of focus on quadrants or even further subsections (dividing the state into sixes or eights) and focus arts festivals on a regional basis, rotating the festivals around within the designated area would be a way to create opportunities for individuals and organizations to comingle and, thus, diminish some of the isolation.
- We know that the arts help with this through the Arts for Life program’s assessments. It helps all ages, and anything that give people more opportunities will be helpful, especially for more isolated rural areas.

**Various Convenings**
- Host events regionally, perhaps smaller-scale conferences, in addition to State Arts Convening (in a central location).
- Semi-regular mini-convenings across the state.
- By providing convening opportunities in all corners of the state.
- Art conventions based on geographical areas. Networking, meeting, finding new artists to relate with would be great.
- Gather artists and arts supporters throughout the year in smaller rural communities rather than always in larger towns.
- Perhaps initiate regional convenings organized by each regional board member to bring artists, schools, communities and public officials together to learn about how the arts and artists can be utilized to enhance community and let them know that NDCA has resources ($, people, advice, etc) to help...
• Regional meetings to get organizations face-to-face.
• Offer more workshops and gatherings with artists.
• Travelling workshops, more information over the internet about activities for artists and musicians

Technology

Telling Stories / Promotion
• A marketing plan focusing on arts in ND would be AWESOME! Short videos and or commercials focusing on a variety of types of art, what our state has to offer and what an impact it has on individuals would help create community awareness. (Similar to the SD video we saw at the convening. But done better.) Too many people think they have to go to Minneapolis for experiences they can get much closer to home.
• Stories in e-news about organizations throughout the state. This would help us know who is out there and how we can connect & partner with them. Our local business eco-system is just starting to bud. Who else is out there that might help us, join us, and collaborate with us.
• Promote the general importance that art has on the community as a whole, as well as individual well-being, and more social media presence. We, ourselves, committed to reposting more art-related content to bring awareness and recognition to local/statewide artists.
• Promote the positive impacts it has in rural areas

Facilitate Connections
• Learn how to properly engage people from all different walks of life, not just small silos.
• invite the underprivileged to take part
• Possibly offer more networking opportunities which could make artists feel less isolated.
• Isolation is a huge issue. Having networks that connect artists to people who want to bring art experiences to their communities is essential. Also connecting those communities with funding is critical.
• Any help in making lasting connections between the artist communities will help with isolation concerns.
• Network artists/creatives together, build relationships with elected officials and local media outlets throughout the state

Remove Barriers
• More funding for travel. Create programs and opportunities that require the services of artists.

Create New Capacity
• Expanding art programs, and offering more opportunities for North Dakota artists to come together and develop a network of programs and resources that will enhance the arts in North Dakota.
• Find ways to build regional artists’ coop work places that include tools such as pottery wheels, kilns, acetylene torches, anvils, etc. That is the biggest deterrent for artists is the massive investment in large scale equipment. Having a workshop environment builds comradery and partnerships.
• Help develop regional councils, coordinate regional meetings on non-legislative years...

Process / Paradigm / Attitude Shifts
• Get over the political ramifications of where we live. Be edgy. Create waves. Be a nuisance.
• I need to make myself more involved.
• Isolation from what? There are numerous programs and opportunities in the State. Yet the communities are insular and unwelcoming to perceived outsiders and people they don't know (or trust). It appears that the respective arts communities are closed networks with very few ways to gain admission or acceptance. This creates numerous pockets of self-isolated artists and fragmented communities with none of those artists willing to consider diversity or open doors to be able to connect with other groups and individuals. Everyone doing their own thing does not a community make.
• Sincerity is incredibly important. In an experience last year, I had wanted to engage in mentorship regarding advocacy and I felt incredibly dismissed.
• Create ways to get rural communities more involved with the arts and to see their importance

Not Isolated / All Good
• Our community is quite connected, honestly.

Funding

Very Specific
• ...Being in North Dakota and being an artist (and, in my case, gay) isolation is the price of admission. Part of it also is artists not feeling part of the arts community... Meaningful connections means you should be there physically with others...
• Diversity but reverse discrimination and fear is wrong
With which of the following organizations have you partnered with in the past 3 years? (Individual Artists and Arts Organizations)

N = 172

Findings:
- The most frequent partners among individual artists and arts organizations were schools and other civic/community organizations.
- Urban respondents were more likely to partner with social service organizations than rural respondents.

NDCA’s 2019 State Arts Convening: Why Not Attend?

N= 308

Findings:
- 84% of respondents did not attend NDCA’s 2019 state arts convening in Bismarck. When asked “why not” most either were unaware or could not attend for logistical reasons.