

Our Core

Mission

The North Dakota State Legislature created the North Dakota Council on the Arts “to ensure that the role of the arts in the life of our communities will continue to grow and will play an evermore significant part in the welfare and educational experience of our citizens.” Our purpose is to bring that commitment to life.

We strengthen the creative capacity of North Dakota for all who live or visit here:
honoring our cultural traditions,
empowering excellence and innovation,
inspiring arts and culture opportunities for all.

What We Do

As a state arts agency, our role is to support creators, art providers, and participants. We use grants, convening, education, and partnerships to:

- Seed new ideas and activity
- Build resilient capacity for the long-term

To do this well, we must balance our investments:

- With organizations, artists, educators, and communities
- For broad geographic reach with deep engagement
- That sustain ongoing work and build new capacity
- For flexible response to ongoing and emerging needs

Beliefs & Values

Inspiring our mission are these deeply held beliefs:

- Art tells our stories – individually and as a state
- Art, culture and creativity, by and for the community, have the power to:
 - Inspire and enhance lives
 - Build community and transform its spaces
 - Lift up, heal, and unite across divides
- Everyone deserves equal access to a full, vibrant creative life, which is essential to a healthy and democratic society

We hold ourselves accountable to the people of North Dakota and the trust placed in us. Because of this we:

- Pursue excellence and innovation in all things
- Pursue cultural equity throughout the state
- Engage our state through fair and transparent processes

Vision 2030

A North Dakota in which all can experience arts and culture. All can participate; all are welcome; and arts and culture thrive.

Strategic Direction

Art & Creative Process for All

Goal 1 Working toward a North Dakota in which all can experience arts and culture – diversity of tradition, of genre, of exposure. All can participate. All are welcome.

Vibrant Communities

Goal 2 Regions, cities, communities, and networks across the state appreciate the power of the arts. They use that power to enhance the vitality of North Dakota. They celebrate the vibrant communities that result, each with arts, creativity and culture at their core.

Thriving Arts Ecosystem

Goal 3 NDCA, communities, organizations, artists, and educators thrive in an interdependent, mutually supported system. Each has resilient capacity aligned for impact.

Excellence & Innovation

Goal 4 NDCA models excellence and innovation for the field. It sustains its gains through self-reflection, evaluation and continuous improvement. Its innovative partnerships open doors to greater influence and impact, increase its efficiency, and leverage its resources.