



**Kim Konikow**  
North Dakota Council on the Arts

## WE CONTINUE TO CREATE TOGETHER

I am pleased to be a part of this issue of *North Dakota Horizons* magazine. There are many wonderful places and activities to visit and partake of throughout the winter season in our state. Enjoy!

For all the craziness that exists in our world, *we always continue to create*. The North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA) mission is to 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.

In response to COVID-19, the NDCA immediately pivoted to alter current programs across the state to make sure art was central to new ways of gathering, even with social distancing. These kept artists

employed, seniors engaged and families and communities involved. *There is no doubt the arts were an important continuity for many over the last few months and will remain at the heart of all we do going forward.*

NDCA administered emergency funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Midwest and The Bush Foundation to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its related effects through the CARES Act Funds. This funded organizations and individuals whose primary mission is to promote and provide connections through creative expression by sharing creative experiences, expressing our own creativity or connecting us with others and ourselves. *In total, that is almost one-half million dollars allocated for North Dakotans in*

*response to the pandemic.*

During this continued time of social distancing, NDCA has gathered many creative online art projects/activities from North Dakota artists and arts organizations to share with you and your families. *We are all in this together!* Check out [www.arts.nd.gov](http://www.arts.nd.gov) for more ideas and inspiration.

NDCA continues to support inclusive and welcoming programs and events that value and respect every individual. By looking deeply inward to see others within ourselves, the many similarities and the many differences within our state can blend. *The arts can help our communities heal.* We must listen, and we must learn. There is only the act of going forward, together.

May you have a loving – and safe – winter season!



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**A NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS:** *North Dakota Horizons* welcomes submissions and contributions in the form of manuscripts and photographs and will consider them for possible publication. Email queries to [ndhorizons@clearwatercommunications.net](mailto:ndhorizons@clearwatercommunications.net) are preferred. Complete submission guidelines are at [www.ndhorizons.com](http://www.ndhorizons.com), or will be mailed upon request by calling 701-355-4458.

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