

- One Act Plays: November 1, 2025
- Art for Life: January–June 2026
- NCAC Winter Art Auction: March 15, 2026
- Student Art Show: April 29–30, 2026
- Rummage Sale: May 16–17, 2026
- NCAC Art Show: Artist Reception – June 25, 2026
Public Art Show – June 26–28, 2026
- NCAC Fine Arts Youth Camp: beginning July 27, 2026

NCAC News

Newsletter of the Nelson County Arts Council
Pekin, North Dakota

Annual Highlights and Upcoming Events

Commitment to the Community

The Nelson County Arts Council continues to provide opportunities for artists and residents, ensuring that art remains a cherished part of rural life. The following #’s help tell the story.



Participants in the *Art for Life* program were recognized at the NCAC Art Redux event held September 28th in Pekin.

NCAC 2025 Preliminary Data

Public Attendance		Volunteers		# of Artists or Registrants/Participants	# of Art Pieces Displayed
Adults	Youth	# of Volunteers	Total Hours		
1559	348	62	849.5	823	828

Student Talent and Performances

Local students continue to showcase remarkable artistic talent. At the Judged NCAC Student Art Show held April 30 and May 1, 2025, 75 students contributed 155 pieces of art. The students’ November 2, 2024 One Act Play presentations included 24 actors from two schools. The 2025 One Act Plays will be held in Pekin on November 1, 2025.

Congratulations to Emily Larson, Arianna Kjorsvik, and Nevaeh Huso, the recipients of the Gene Gunhus Scholarship. Gene Gunhus was a principal and educator in North Dakota, focusing on music, speech, and drama. As a founding member of the Nelson County Arts Council, he dedicated many years to the NCAC.

Art for Life Program

Art for Life is made possible through a grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, enabling the Nelson County Arts Council to bring art into three of the county’s nursing homes.

Coordinators Amy Jo and David Paukert lead bi-monthly sessions, taking a holistic approach that blends themed history, music, and hands-on activities. Over the year, 54 sessions were held, averaging 15 seniors at each session.



NCAC BOARD MEMBERS

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STUDENT MEMBERS

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Hayley Roseware

EVENTS PHOTOGRAPHER

Carlos Peech



This project is supported in part by a grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, which receives funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Nelson County Arts Council

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Pekin, ND 58361

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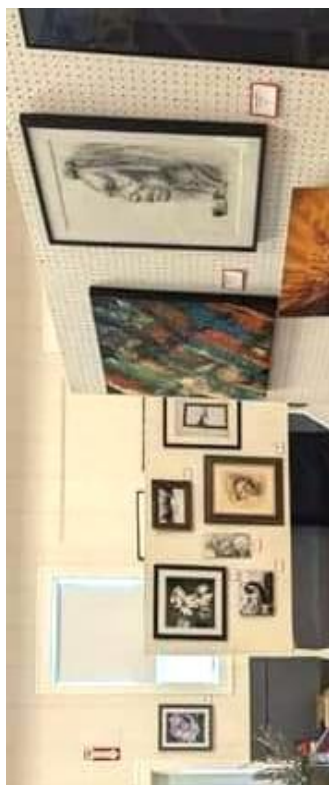
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Pekin, ND

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Pekin Days Art Show



A longstanding tradition, the NCAC judged Art Show during Pekin Days (June 26-29, 2025) remains a major highlight. Sixty-five artists submitted 405 works for display and sale. The Artists' Reception and show drew 484 adults and 66 children. The People's Choice Award went to Kristi Berdal for "One Is Gone," while Best of Show was awarded to Judy Fladeland's "Lavender in Light." Upcoming artist Aisha Ironhawk received the Brenda Bjorlie Award for "Smudge Away." The 2026 Art Show will expand to include Fiber Arts.

Rural Arts Mobile Display

The Rural Arts Mobile Display returned from September 30 to October 9, 2025. This year's theme is *Crossroads: An Exploration of Place and Identity*. The Rural Arts Initiative is created by the ND Museum of Art. Reception was held Oct 6. Several area schools took advantage of this unique exhibit.

FINE ARTS YOUTH CAMP

The 2025 Fine Arts Youth Camp returned to Stump Lake Park, welcoming 47 students for six days of creative exploration in various art forms. The camp culminated with a drama performance of "Pinocchio" on August 2, drawing 74 adults and 35 children in attendance. Eight scholarships were awarded thanks to the Breckheimer Scholarship Fund and additional donors.

WINTER ART AUCTION



Auctioneer Terry Ellingson sold 60 works to 48 bidders at the 2025 Winter Art Auction, with proceeds supporting the Fine Arts Youth Camp.