



# Nelson County Arts Council



February 2021

## Special points of interest:

- Winter Art Auction
- Art for Life
- Fine Arts Youth Camp
- Memorials
- Grant Awards
- Student Art Show

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- ◆ Kirby Berg

## CFO

- ◆ Marie Adams

## BOARD MEMBERS

- ◆ Verna Lindvall, President
- ◆ Thomas Anderson, Vice-President
- ◆ Deborah Carlson, Secretary
- ◆ Kristi Berdal
- ◆ Valerie Berg
- ◆ Beth Huso
- ◆ Barry Sundeen
- ◆ Olivia Avdem, DP Student Member
- ◆ Kelland Klefstad, DP Student Member

Greetings from Nelson County Arts Council! Even though the pandemic has changed or eliminated many events, the Board of Directors has been active. Here are some highlights of the past year and also information on upcoming events.

## WINTER ART AUCTION

The 2021 Winter Art Auction will be held at 3:00 pm on March 21 in a new format. Because of the pandemic, we will be doing an online auction over Zoom! All you need is a laptop, tablet, ipad or smart phone to participate. In order to be admitted to the online auction, please mail the entry fee of \$10 to get a bidding number. This fee will be put toward your purchase of a piece of art should you choose to buy. Please include your mailing address, phone number and email address along with your fee. Once we receive your fee and email address, we will email you a bidding number and the link to the Zoom auction. **We must receive your fee and contact information by March 19.**

The art will be available to view online a few days before the auction on our website [nelsoncountyarts.com](http://nelsoncountyarts.com). At the Zoom auction, each piece of art will be sold live and attendees may bid as usual. Payment for purchased art will be due by PayPal on the day of the auction or by check which NCAC must receive by March 26. Dates for pickup of the art will be given at a later date.

We look forward to providing this event in the safest way possible. All proceeds from the sale of art will go toward the Fine Arts Youth Camp at Stump Lake. We hope you will attend and purchase a piece of art in the safety and comfort of your own home with your favorite beverage to add to the excitement of the day!

## ED PAWLIKOWSKI PAINTINGS

Ed Pawlikowski of Lakota, ND joined the NCAC Board in March 2020 but suddenly passed away shortly thereafter. Ed was an avid artist, showing and selling his art in the Pekin Days Art Show.

After Ed's passing, his family donated several of Ed's paintings to NCAC and specified that the proceeds from the sales of his art would go to the Fine Arts Youth Camp. Ed's paintings will be auctioned off at the Winter Art Auction on March 21, 2021. NCAC is grateful for this donation.



*One of Ed Pawlikowski's paintings to be auctioned off at the Winter Art Auction on March 21st.*



## ART FOR LIFE

NCAC has been helping improve the health and wellness of elders at the Lakota Good Samaritan Society through intensive one on one art interaction from community artists. The need has never been greater during lockdowns that have had the elders stressed out and held up in their rooms with no visitors or interaction with other residents. The elders' enjoyment from our creative collaborations was immediately felt throughout the care facility, helping bring some joy to the elders and workers making things a bit better. Last year Marcy Grohs played her violin and Jennifer Parker turned windows into canvases, creating large scale paintings while safely visiting with residents outside their windows. Currently, our Executive Director, Kirby, is working with residents one on one in his glass studio through technology. What started out as an ornament project with a video to watch, has turned into custom collaborations with the resident in the driver's seat. Most of the residents had never seen hot glass before, including David who said, "I've never seen glass blowing but my grandpa blew glass with his brother..." David shares this story:

In 1875, the Saint Olav left Bergen Norway for New York. Beautiful weather turned ugly and the waves got huge. Three brothers were forced to throw their fortune hidden in wooden crates overboard to help keep the ship from sinking. The brother's fortune was in hand blown glass, mostly goblets. After arriving empty handed in New York, the highly skilled brothers settled in rural North Dakota. Two farmed and one joined the railroad. The two farming brothers built their glass studio where they made goblets smaller than a thumb and bigger than a forearm. They made horses and plates and much more. The brother's created art in secrecy and only sold their glass wares to a merchant in Minot. Most of the glass art was functional and was used until it broke except a few horses held onto by relatives. David did not understand the significance of the skill level required to create the goblets he described, let alone that they were made 146 years ago in North Dakota.

Another resident, Joann asked, "Can we make a purple heart for my son?" Kirby asked her, "Was he in the service?" She replied, "No, he had a bad ticker and his fingernails and lips were always kinda purple. The kids at school were real rough on him but he embraced the purple and claimed himself to be a purple people eater just like the Minnesota Vikings defense." Her son passed away at age 19 after an open heart surgery. Kirby and Joann together created a purple heart pendant for her to wear.

Curtis, a Native American bead artist from Devils Lake, has tied countless beads over the years. However he had never seen how glass beads were made. Kirby started by making a centerpiece turtle pendant and then used the remaining left over color from the turtle to pull a tube of beads to demonstrate how the beads that Curtis ties are created. Curtis looks forward to tying his new beads up and Kirby is planning some further collaborations with Curtis and other elders for our upcoming art auction where we will be fundraising for our 2021 Stump Lake Fine Arts Youth Camp.

Art For Life is an 18 month program. NCAC rotates between the three nursing homes in Nelson County. It is a beautifully rooted program and a blessing for all involved.

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.



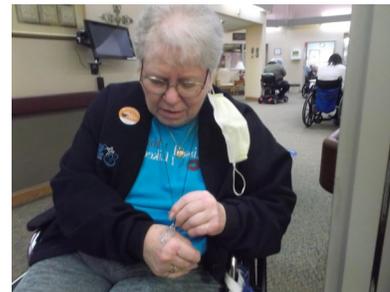
*Kirby in his home studio creating glass art for a resident who is interacting with him through technology. Kirby's daughter, Skylah, recorded each resident's information and created nametags for photographs of the residents with their art piece.*



*Thelma is shining with her new blue heart pendant.*



*Grant, as a challenge to Kirby said, "You must have an old bottle around we can play with." So they created some functional art out of a 20 year old bottle, making a small drinking glass for him and a matching vase.*



*Joann cherishes her purple heart as she remembers her son.*

NORTH  
**Dakota** | Council on the Arts  
Be Legendary.™



Since 1999 Deb Hensrud has been the Director of the Stump Lake Fine Arts Youth Camp. Under Deb's direction, the camp has flourished, bringing 85-105 students to learn from art experts each summer. We regret to announce that Deb has decided that her time as camp director should come to an end. The NCAC Board of Directors is very appreciative of Deb for her dedication, promotion of the arts, organizational skills and the relationships she developed with the kids and instructors. Thank you, Deb, for your many years of service to the youth in Nelson County and beyond!



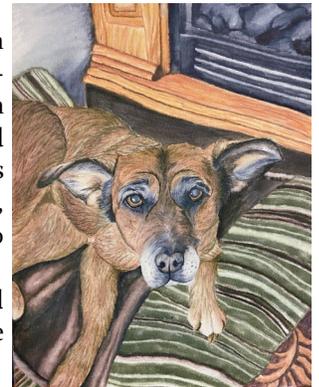
Now, for the GOOD NEWS...the camp will continue! Kirby and Shelli Berg will be directing the Fine Arts Youth Camp at Stump Lake in the summer of 2021. Kirby is the Executive Director of NCAC and he and his wife, Shel, are excited to bring their ideas and talents to the camp. Plans are just beginning so please check the NCAC website [nelsoncountyarts.com](http://nelsoncountyarts.com) for more information to come.



### STUDENT ART SHOW

The Student Art Show scheduled for April 2020 was held online due to the sudden closure of schools because of the pandemic. Teachers did their best to get us pictures of the students' artwork, although many of the pieces were sent home with the students when the schools closed. We did have a few schools participate and pictures were sent and posted on the NCAC website. Some of our board members acted as a judging committee and students were awarded cash prizes. All in all, teachers and students were pleased that at least some of their students were able to submit their art to a show.

This year, we will again host an online show with much more time to plan and work out details. As a result, we hope to have many more entries this year! The 2021 Student Art Show will be posted on [nelsoncountyarts.com](http://nelsoncountyarts.com) by April 12.



2020 Best in Show by Abbie H.

### UNITED STATES ARTS MIDWEST RESILIENCE FUND

NCAC is one of sixty-one Midwestern arts and culture organizations receiving COVID-19 relief grants from Arts Midwest through Phase 2 of the United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund. As stated on the United States Arts Resilience Fund webpage, "The Resilience Fund's goal is to invest in historically under-resourced arts and culture organizations across the United States as they work to weather the COVID-19 pandemic."

Nelson County Arts Council received \$15,000 to help with needs of the organization. This funding is crucial as we were unable to hold our largest source of income in 2020, the Pekin Days Art Show.



Arts Midwest is supported in part by The National Endowment for the Arts.



## RAFFLE TICKETS

NCAC is selling raffle tickets as a fundraiser for the general fund. Tickets are \$20 each for a chance at 13 weekly cash drawings ranging from \$100 - \$300. Only 200 tickets will be sold and names drawn will be returned to the pool for the other drawings! The first drawing is March 28. Please contact any board member for tickets. You must have a ticket to win! Thank you in advance for your support!



## GENE GUNHUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Gene Gunhus, long-time NCAC board member and promoter of the arts, passed away November 10, 2019. Following his death, the NCAC board established the Gene Gunhus Memorial Scholarship Fund. Donations or memorials may be given to the Gene Gunhus Memorial Scholarship Fund so scholarships may be awarded for many years.

### 2020 MEMORIALS

#### Gene Gunhus Memorial Fund

Randy Johnson  
Betty Ann Bina  
Boyd Hagen  
Sandra Messner  
Ruth Ann & Marion Monteleone  
Jerry Sand  
Sheila Halvorson  
Jane Oberg  
Dana Fitcher  
Duane & Kayte Avdem  
Bob & Joan Halberg  
Robert & Verna Lindvall  
Becky Flaagan  
Mary Ellen Larson  
Wes and Leanne Gilbert  
Linda & Rob Loe

Betty Ann Bina in memory of Mary Bergstrom  
Betty Ann Bina in memory of Les Berdal  
Betty Ann Bina in memory of Ruth Martinson  
Ron and Barb Pishtek in memory of Les Berdal  
Robert & Verna Lindvall in memory of Les Berdal  
Sheila Halvorson in memory of Craig Halvorson

The scholarship will be available in 2021 for graduating high school seniors or anyone who is planning to further their education in one of the fields of Fine Art. Interested students may email [ncac@gondtc.com](mailto:ncac@gondtc.com) for an application. The deadline for submission is May 15, 2021.



*Gene Gunhus*

### PEKIN DAYS ART SHOW

NCAC hopes to have the Pekin Days Art Show in June 2021. The North Dakota Council on the Arts awarded NCAC a Community Arts Access matching grant in the amount of \$3000 to help defray costs of the Art Show. We will be making decisions as to how we can safely host the show in the coming months. Please stay tuned to our website, Facebook page and other local media for information in the near future.

**ECONOMIC RESILIENCY GRANT**

Nelson County Arts Council is a recipient of the ND Department of Commerce Economic Resiliency Grant. Funding was available for businesses and nonprofits to purchase items which would help make their facilities safer in this time of the coronavirus pandemic. NCAC received \$16,000 which enabled the purchase of many items including UV lights and UV furnace filters which will sanitize the air in the auditorium. Sensor toilets, faucets, lights, automatic soap and towel dispensers in the bathrooms have also been installed. Other items include masks, hand sanitizer, floor decals for social distancing, touchless payment systems, and plexiglass shields. All of these items will ensure a safer environment when patrons attend events at the auditorium.



An additional round of the ERG grant was available and NCAC received \$5740 to be used specifically for salaries, contracted services, utilities and office supplies for 3 months. These funds are appreciated as we were not able to hold events in 2020.

**2021 MEMBERSHIP IN NCAC**

Our annual membership drive is in the spring/summer, however you may join any time during the year. Your paid membership helps to ensure that we continue with our events and helps with our operating costs. Membership ensures that you will receive the annual newsletter and may gain entrance to some events at a discount.

We have revised the annual membership levels in NCAC. Complete the form below with your payment.



**MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM**      Date \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



⇒ \_\_\_\_\_ \$20/ Individual \_\_\_\_\_ or \$30/ Couple Membership

⇒ \_\_\_\_\_ \$100/ Gold Membership (includes glass heart pendant created by our Executive Director)

⇒ \_\_\_\_\_ \$300/ Memorial Sculpture Membership

in honor of : \_\_\_\_\_

in memory of : \_\_\_\_\_



⇒ \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000+/- VIP Membership will include a set of blown glass heart stemmed champagne flutes hand sculpted by our Executive Director, raffle tickets, dinners, and access to all NCAC events for two!

I have enclosed a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. (Please include a membership form with your payment.)

Please mail to: Nelson County Arts Council  
PO Box 83  
Pekin, ND 58361



Nelson County Arts Council  
PO Box 83  
121 Main Street  
Pekin, ND 58361

Phone: 701-296-4410  
Email: [ncac@gondtc.com](mailto:ncac@gondtc.com)  
Facebook: NCAC—  
Nelson County Arts Council  
Website:  
[nelsoncountyarts.com](http://nelsoncountyarts.com)



*Frost adds a new dimension to the metal sculpture at the Pekin Auditorium.*



Nelson County Arts Council  
PO Box 83  
Pekin, ND 58361

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 4  
Pekin, ND  
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**BOARD MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

NCAC is always looking for new board members. We have cut back on the number of events that we do throughout the year, retaining those which are the most successful. This has taken a lot of pressure off board members. We also have adopted term limits. A term is 3 years and a board member may serve two consecutive terms. If you would like a brochure of our organization to see what being a board member is all about, or if you have questions, please contact one of the officers listed on page 1 or leave a message on the office phone 701-296-4410 and we will respond.

We are also looking for willing volunteers to help with projects and events as well. Future projects include preparing bulk mailings, organizing the basement and the upstairs storage areas of the auditorium, cleaning before and after events. If you are willing to help with any of these projects, please email [ncac@gondtc.com](mailto:ncac@gondtc.com) or call the office and we'll add you to our volunteer list. Your help is appreciated and necessary to the success of NCAC! We love our volunteers!

*Join us at the online Winter Art Auction on Sunday, March 21st @ 3:00 pm! See article on page 1 for details. Wonderful Art! Door Prizes! Fun!*