



**Request for Qualifications
Artist/Creative Team
Region 8, ND
RUGGED AND UNFORGETTABLE**

**ARTS ACROSS THE PRAIRIE:
Placemaking in Rural North Dakota**

PLACEMAKING IN REGION 8 – SW NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota has eight distinct regions. Southwestern North Dakota's Region 8 is comprised of Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Slope and Stark Counties. Regional and local leaders from business, arts, education, and community were recruited as Stakeholders to formulate a roadmap for the development of one site to be the artistic, historical, and cultural representation for the eight counties. The City of Beach, ND will facilitate the Region 8 project with its partner, North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA).

The Stakeholders Group met for over a year to plan the fifth statewide *Arts Across the Prairie* project.

RUGGED AND UNFORGETTABLE

The vision is for a permanent large-scale art installation, and the finalist's proposals should reflect your affection for and attention to place. Rural communities/residents will be living with the artwork for a long time, perhaps generations. The selection process for this project will also require the finalist's ability to teach and share with others as we train future North Dakota artists in the outdoor installation process.

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

An artist or creative team may apply; the total fee for the project will not alter. You must be an established artist, with experience in large-scale outdoor installations, public art, placemaking or placekeeping, community work, and teaching.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- **Tuesday May 14, 3-4pm CT, 2024:** Informational Webinar; email arts@nd.gov by May 13 to receive log-in information
- **Friday May 31, 2024: 11:59pm CT:** PHASE ONE Interested artists and collaborators submit initial artist application and materials
- **Thursday June 13, 2024:** Notify three finalist candidates with detailed RFP for Phase Two
- **Thursday July 18, 2024: 11:59pm CT:** Three finalist candidates' proposals due
- **Thursday July 25, 2024: 3-6:30pm CT:** Online interviews with three finalists
- **Early August 2024:** Final Artist Selection announced

HOW TO APPLY – PHASE ONE

DO NOT submit a project proposal or design at this time.

If you need reasonable accommodation, please email arts@nd.gov.

It is recommended that all potential applicants join an Informational Webinar to be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 3-4 pm CT

Please email arts@nd.gov by Monday, May 13, 2024, by 5 pm CT to receive the Zoom link.

Provide the following in a **single (one) PDF document**. Please do not include supplemental materials beyond the requirements listed below. Work samples (JPEGs) can be sent as separate files. The **single (one) PDF document** should include the following:

- One-page of contact information for the lead artist, as well as creative team members. All applicants must live in the contiguous United States.
- One-page letter describing interest in the project and approach to art making; please include statement addressing eligibility criteria, approach to research and stakeholder engagement, and integrating educational opportunities into the process.
- One-page bio or resume; if you have multiple team members, please keep biographical information for each team member to one (1) page.
- One-page list identifying up to each of the seven work sample images, to include title, year, medium budget, and dimensions.
 - Work sample images: up to seven (7) digital images of your recent projects. Individuals and teams are limited to seven (7) images maximum. Artists should include photos that document experience in creating large scale work outdoors.
 - All images must be in JPEG format, 1920 pixels maximum on the longest side, 72 dpi, with compression settings resulting in the best image quality under 2MB file size.
- The image files should be named so that the list sorts in the order of the image listing. (If the work cannot be documented well with still images, please include video links.) Reminder, up to 7 work samples total.

Again, DO NOT submit a project proposal or design at this time.

SELECTION PROCESS and DEADLINES

RFQ PHASE ONE: Selection of finalists

NDCA Staff will review all initial submissions to determine if basic qualifications are met. Applications will then be reviewed by a Selection Committee comprised of stakeholders, artists, and community members. Selection of three (3) finalists will be based on the following criteria:

- Quality of letter of interest directly related to the site; why do you want to be involved in this project?
- Quality of work samples
- Ability of artist(s) to complete project as based on bio and prior work experience

All PHASE ONE materials must be received by Friday, May 31, 2024, 11:59pm CT

RFP PHASE TWO: Initial design concepts by three selected finalists

Only *three* finalists will be asked to develop a design concept presentation to the Selection Committee. They will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Design concept’s resonance with the project description, understanding of site and cultural heritage of Region
- The installation is presented as a community asset and creates a sense of welcome
- The artist/s mode of working and design process approach, including budget
- An ability to communicate and engage with diverse communities, including fabrication and construction professionals

All PHASE TWO materials must be received by Thursday, July 18, 2024, 11:59pm CT

Please submit all RFQ materials via email to arts@nd.gov

* Subject Line – Arts Across the Prairie Region 8

This is not a postmark deadline; no materials will be accepted after the deadline

No application materials will be returned

NDCA will not be responsible for applications delayed or lost in transit

NDCA and the Selection Committee reserve the right to withhold the award of a commission or re-release the call for entries.

The three finalist interviews will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, July 25, 2024**; the Selection Committee will announce the artist selected for the Region 8 Arts Across the Prairie project by **Early August, 2024**.

FULL PROJECT TIMELINE

- Late Summer/Fall 2024: Planning Process includes final design, budgeting, community involvement and construction plans
- Spring 2025: Break Ground
- Summer/Fall 2024: construction work will be ‘build’ and weather dependent
- Subsequent training of North Dakota artists TBD. This will be a workshop situation, online and hopefully on-site, utilizing artist’s specific installation materials
- Spring/Summer 2025: construction
- Late Summer/Fall 2025: public unveiling

BUDGET INFORMATION

Region 8 – The total project budget is \$150,000. Fabrication/construction and other expenses will be discussed with finalist/s for this remote build.

The artist/creative team budget is \$55,000 *of the total listed above*. The expenses covered include:

- design
- technical drawings
- 3D charette/model
- in-state transportation
- lodging
- per diem
- Two-three trips to North Dakota (dates TBD)

BACKGROUND/THEMES FOR REGION 8, ND RUGGED AND UNFORGETTABLE

Region 8 Stakeholders met over the course of 16 months and discussed the area’s culture, history, and unique geographical formations. Numerous breathtaking locations were researched to best represent the cultural heritage and distinct landscapes of Region 8, with nine sites seriously considered. The Stakeholders were repeatedly drawn to the rugged beauty of open spaces highlighted by green and golden fields, sweeping vistas of prairie grasslands, and the eroded buttes of the North Dakota badlands.

The badlands are an enduring presence and leave a lasting impression on visitors, as do the tough and resilient people, like the homesteaders who traveled west. The rugged landscape was shaped by wind and water erosion on the exposed sedimentary rock layers of soft clays, shales, and sandstones. The Little Missouri River began carving and eroding the badlands about 600,000 years ago when a glacier diverted it from its northward course.

Southwest North Dakota is home to some of the most iconic buttes in the badlands. These isolated hills rise abruptly from the surrounding plains and play an important role in the ecology and history of the region and are a popular destination for tourists. Many visit the sandstone-capped White Butte, the highest natural point in North Dakota. The naturally rugged badlands scenery and beautiful prairies make this corner of the state unforgettable.

The buttes are deeply connected to Native American tribal history and culture, including the Lakota and Sioux, as well as the Mandan, Hidasta, and Arikara Nations (MHA). Some are considered sacred places, used for various traditional ceremonies and practices, and are an important part of the region’s oral history.

The settlers of southwestern North Dakota in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were a diverse group, primarily consisting of European immigrants seeking opportunities for farming and a new life in America. Some prominent ethnic groups among the settlers included Scandinavians (Norwegians and Swedes), Ukrainians, Germans, and Russian-Germans. The cultural mosaic of these rugged settlers faced the challenges of a harsh climate and frontier life and played a crucial role in shaping the region’s cultural history and traditions. The Northern Pacific Railroad, now BNSF, extended westward in the 1880s and contributed to the waves of migration.

Wild Horses capture the wild and free spirit of the region and the adaptability to the unforgiving landscape. The horse is an integral part of the lives of Native American tribes and ranching traditions; the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park has several bands roaming within its boundaries. Bison, once prevalent across the Great Plains, were essential to Native Americans by providing food, shelter, clothing, and tools. Conservation efforts are being made to restore their populations; today, they are symbolic in our region. Cattle is the oldest industry due to the

perseverance and resiliency of the families that settled the frontier. There was a rush to get cattle to the “sea of grass,” the last great open range in the United States. Cattle ranching is still a common generational vocation.

Agriculture is a way of life, a commitment to a sustainable future. Primary crops in the area include wheat, canola, sunflowers, flax, and corn. The heritage of conservation has been passed down through generations, fostering a profound connection to the land and its rhythms.

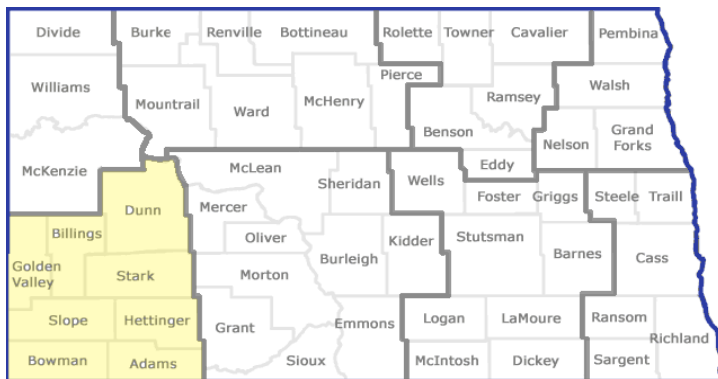
Six of the eight counties in Region 8 hold oil and gas production wells like the Bakken, Three Forks, and Red River. In the evening, wells dot the sweeping vistas with an amber glow from the energy resources that are held within. Renewable energy resources include wind and geothermal. Wind flows effortlessly across the rugged and unforgettable landscape, bringing in summer storms and winter blizzards, and has become a renewable energy source for the state.

The design of the public work should be a symbolic reference of the natural setting and the culture and economic history of the region. Stakeholders would like to see these themes represented in the art installation. *You are encouraged to investigate.*

Region 8 RESOURCES

Arts Across the Prairie **Website** and **Facebook** pages

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adams_County,_North_Dakota Population 2,200
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billings_County,_North_Dakota Population 945
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bowman_County,_North_Dakota Population 2,993
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dunn_County,_North_Dakota Population 4,095
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Valley_County,_North_Dakota Population 1,736
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hettinger_County,_North_Dakota Population 2,489
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slope_County,_North_Dakota Population 706
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stark_County,_North_Dakota Population 33,646
- <https://buffalotalesandtrails.com/horses-and-plains-indians-2/>
- <https://www.ndbh.org/>
- <https://www.dmr.nd.gov/ndgs/ndnotes/ndn12.htm#:~:text=The%20Little%20Missouri%20River%20began,and%20on%20to%20Hudson%20Bay>
- <https://www.nps.gov/thro/learn/nature/bison-buffalo.htm>
- [https://www.american-rails.com/nd.html#gallery\[pageGallery\]/1/](https://www.american-rails.com/nd.html#gallery[pageGallery]/1/)
- <https://www.genealogytrails.com/ndak/goldenvalley/history.html>
- Golden Valley County Historical Society <https://gvcohistoricalsociety.org/>



ARTS ACROSS THE PRAIRE: Placemaking in Rural North Dakota will create public-private partnerships throughout the state and provides a national model of this type of creative placemaking.

The goals of *Arts Across the Prairie* are to:

- Foster creative cross county networking and regional collaboration
- Promote tourism for in-and out-of-state visitors
- Stimulate economic development and activity in rural areas of North Dakota
- Build stronger arts communities across the state
- Invest in North Dakota’s creative sector with professional training and support to heighten visibility
- Bolster NDCA’s role as a rural development partner
- Celebrate the cultural heritage of rural areas

NDCA is committed to providing opportunities to all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnic origin, religion, political belief, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, or physical ability.

Transformation of Communities:

Through this program, empowered groups will reach across their regions (and the state) for mutually beneficial partnerships. The culture of rural areas will be celebrated; and community-driven placemaking will create economic, tourism, and equity benefits.

Transformation of Local Art:

The artist(s) will offer training to North Dakota artists to take on projects of this nature. Local artists’ capacity will increase with these enhanced skills, resulting in the creation of more art for local communities. This will also expand artists’ eligibility for additional funding opportunities. (Workshop parameters TBD)

Partnerships:

NDCA is creating multi-sector, multi-jurisdiction groups of statewide Stakeholders who will collaborate to maximize resources and expertise. As a community-driven initiative, *Arts Across the Prairie* aims to promote civic pride, affirm uniqueness of place, and strengthen cultural identity. This program will create public-private partnerships throughout the state and will provide a national model of this type of creative placemaking, an important step forward for our state. The initiative will foster community innovation across North Dakota in a way that is equitable, scalable, and sustainable.

Google Maps Link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/waqVCmROYitT5Yne6>

The current site coordinates as shown on Google Maps are: 46°55'32.2"N 103°36'53.5"W

Region 8 Site Photos:

