

September 1, 2020

Dear Mayor Corbett,

Greetings from Arts South Dakota, our state's non-profit arts service and advocacy organization. During the past few months your work as a city leader has required a new level of action as your community faces the unprecedented Coronavirus pandemic. I know all too well from conversations with community leaders across our state how much is on your plate these days, and not the least of which is budgeting and spending decisions for the upcoming year. It is clear most communities are facing revenue shortages and in turn, tough decisions will need to be made to balance the books.

Now is not the time to be pulling back funding for your arts and cultural organizations. *Now is the time to be sure they are healthy and creative and ready to lead your community forward.* Not only are the arts a consistent and significant driver of economic activity and a force for creative problem solving, but most importantly, the arts are the heart and soul of your community. As you consider what makes your town truly unique, your home, I would bet arts and cultural experiences are at the top of the list — activities like the Brookings Arts Councils' Joy Harjo residency, their new mural at the Brookings Public Library, all their classes and clubs, and their various community outreach and collaboration programs.

From the murals in Faulkton, to Riverboat Days in Yankton, Sculpture Walk in Sioux Falls, or the Rosebud Wacipi, our South Dakota communities are defined by their arts and culture. So as you consider how to invest limited resources for a better 2021, you must not forget the arts. They create community, bring big ideas to your citizens, serve as the "front door" to your visitors, and undoubtedly help power your economy. *Now is not the time to be pulling back funding from your arts and cultural organizations!*

Please find the enclosed infographics. I hope they serve as a tools to talk with your fellow city leaders about the importance of supporting the arts, even during this time of financial hardship. Consider Arts South Dakota an ally and know that I am happy to provide further information or dialogue if I can be of assistance. I believe it is your work as a local leader that has the greatest impact on the vitality of the arts in your community.

Best Regards,



Jim Speirs
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lance Bertram, Pierre	Sen. Troy Heinert, Mission	Jim Mathis, Sioux Falls
Brian Bonde, Sioux Falls	Brian Hildebrant, Brookings	Katrina Lehr-McKinney, Sioux Falls
Rep. Scyller J. Borglum, Rapid City	Dr. Craig Howe, Martin	Kenny Putnam, Rapid City
Stacy Braun, Aberdeen	Katie Hunhoff, Yankton	Shelley Stingley, Sioux Falls
Richard "Dick" Brown, Custer	Dr. Alan LaFave, Valley City	Lynn Verschoor, Brookings
Julie Garreau, Eagle Butte	Dale Lamphere, Sturgis	Kris Wollman, Pierre

September 1st, 2020

Dear City Manager Briseno,

Greetings from Arts South Dakota, our state's non-profit arts service and advocacy organization. During the few months your work as a city leader has required a new level of action as your community faces the unprecedented Coronavirus pandemic. I know all too well from conversations with community leaders across our state how much is on your plate these days, and not the least of which is budgeting and spending decisions for the upcoming year. It is clear most communities are facing revenue shortages and in turn, tough decisions will need to be made to balance the books.

Now is not the time to be pulling back funding for your arts and cultural organizations. *Now is the time to be sure they are healthy and creative and ready to lead your community forward.* Not only are the arts a consistent and significant driver of economic activity and a force for creative problem solving, but most importantly, the arts are the heart and soul of your community. As you consider what makes your town truly unique, your home, I would bet arts and cultural experiences are at the top of the list — activities like the Brookings Arts Councils' Joy Harjo residency, their new mural at the Brookings Public Library, all their classes and clubs, and their various community outreach and collaboration programs.

From the murals in Faulkton, to Riverboat Days in Yankton, Sculpture Walk in Sioux Falls, or the Rosebud Wacipi, our South Dakota communities are defined by their arts and culture. So as you consider how to invest limited resources for a better 2021, you must not forget the arts. They create community, bring big ideas to your citizens, serve as the "front door" to your visitors, and undoubtedly help power your economy. *Now is not the time to be pulling back funding from your arts and cultural organizations!*

Please find the enclosed infographics. I hope they serve as a tools to talk with your fellow city leaders about the importance of supporting the arts, even during this time of financial hardship. Consider Arts South Dakota an ally and know that I am happy to provide further information or dialogue if I can be of assistance. I believe it is your work as a local leader that has the greatest impact on the vitality of the arts in your community.

Best Regards,



Jim Speirs
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lance Bertram, Pierre	Sen. Troy Heinert, Mission	Jim Mathis, Sioux Falls
Brian Bonde, Sioux Falls	Brian Hildebrant, Brookings	Katrina Lehr-McKinney, Sioux Falls
Rep. Scyller J. Borglum, Rapid City	Dr. Craig Howe, Martin	Kenny Putnam, Rapid City
Stacy Braun, Aberdeen	Katie Hunhoff, Yankton	Shelley Stingley, Sioux Falls
Richard "Dick" Brown, Custer	Dr. Alan LaFave, Valley City	Lynn Verschoor, Brookings
Julie Garreau, Eagle Butte	Dale Lamphere, Sturgis	Kris Wollman, Pierre

September 1st, 2020

Dear Council Member Collins,

Greetings from Arts South Dakota, our state's non-profit arts service and advocacy organization. During the few months your work as a city leader has required a new level of action as your community faces the unprecedented Coronavirus pandemic. I know all too well from conversations with community leaders across our state how much is on your plate these days, and not the least of which is budgeting and spending decisions for the upcoming year. It is clear most communities are facing revenue shortages and in turn, tough decisions will need to be made to balance the books.

Now is not the time to be pulling back funding for your arts and cultural organizations. *Now is the time to be sure they are healthy and creative and ready to lead your community forward.* Not only are the arts a consistent and significant driver of economic activity and a force for creative problem solving, but most importantly, the arts are the heart and soul of your community. As you consider what makes your town truly unique, your home, I would bet arts and cultural experiences are at the top of the list – activities like the Brookings Arts Councils' Joy Harjo residency, their new mural at the Brookings Public Library, all their classes and clubs, and their various community outreach and collaboration programs.

From the murals in Faulkton, to Riverboat Days in Yankton, Sculpture Walk in Sioux Falls, or the Rosebud Wacipi, our South Dakota communities are defined by their arts and culture. So as you consider how to invest limited resources for a better 2021, you must not forget the arts. They create community, bring big ideas to your citizens, serve as the "front door" to your visitors, and undoubtedly help power your economy. *Now is not the time to be pulling back funding from your arts and cultural organizations!*

Please find the enclosed infographics. I hope they serve as a tools to talk with your fellow city leaders about the importance of supporting the arts, even during this time of financial hardship. Consider Arts South Dakota an ally and know that I am happy to provide further information or dialogue if I can be of assistance. I believe it is your work as a local leader that has the greatest impact on the vitality of the arts in your community.

Best Regards,



Jim Speirs
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lance Bertram, Pierre	Sen. Troy Heinert, Mission	Jim Mathis, Sioux Falls
Brian Bonde, Sioux Falls	Brian Hildebrant, Brookings	Katrina Lehr-McKinney, Sioux Falls
Rep. Scyller J. Borglum, Rapid City	Dr. Craig Howe, Martin	Kenny Putnam, Rapid City
Stacy Braun, Aberdeen	Katie Hunhoff, Yankton	Shelley Stingley, Sioux Falls
Richard "Dick" Brown, Custer	Dr. Alan LaFave, Valley City	Lynn Verschoor, Brookings
Julie Garreau, Eagle Butte	Dale Lamphere, Sturgis	Kris Wollman, Pierre

September 1st, 2020

Dear Deputy Mayor Bacon,

Greetings from Arts South Dakota, our state's non-profit arts service and advocacy organization. During the few months your work as a city leader has required a new level of action as your community faces the unprecedented Coronavirus pandemic. I know all too well from conversations with community leaders across our state how much is on your plate these days, and not the least of which is budgeting and spending decisions for the upcoming year. It is clear most communities are facing revenue shortages and in turn, tough decisions will need to be made to balance the books.

Now is not the time to be pulling back funding for your arts and cultural organizations. *Now is the time to be sure they are healthy and creative and ready to lead your community forward.* Not only are the arts a consistent and significant driver of economic activity and a force for creative problem solving, but most importantly, the arts are the heart and soul of your community. As you consider what makes your town truly unique, your home, I would bet arts and cultural experiences are at the top of the list — activities like the Brookings Arts Councils' Joy Harjo residency, their new mural at the Brookings Public Library, all their classes and clubs, and their various community outreach and collaboration programs.

From the murals in Faulkton, to Riverboat Days in Yankton, Sculpture Walk in Sioux Falls, or the Rosebud Wacipi, our South Dakota communities are defined by their arts and culture. So as you consider how to invest limited resources for a better 2021, you must not forget the arts. They create community, bring big ideas to your citizens, serve as the "front door" to your visitors, and undoubtedly help power your economy. *Now is not the time to be pulling back funding from your arts and cultural organizations!*

Please find the enclosed infographics. I hope they serve as a tools to talk with your fellow city leaders about the importance of supporting the arts, even during this time of financial hardship. Consider Arts South Dakota an ally and know that I am happy to provide further information or dialogue if I can be of assistance. I believe it is your work as a local leader that has the greatest impact on the vitality of the arts in your community.

Best Regards,



Jim Speirs
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lance Bertram, Pierre	Sen. Troy Heinert, Mission	Jim Mathis, Sioux Falls
Brian Bonde, Sioux Falls	Brian Hildebrant, Brookings	Katrina Lehr-McKinney, Sioux Falls
Rep. Scyller J. Borglum, Rapid City	Dr. Craig Howe, Martin	Kenny Putnam, Rapid City
Stacy Braun, Aberdeen	Katie Hunhoff, Yankton	Shelley Stingley, Sioux Falls
Richard "Dick" Brown, Custer	Dr. Alan LaFave, Valley City	Lynn Verschoor, Brookings
Julie Garreau, Eagle Butte	Dale Lamphere, Sturgis	Kris Wollman, Pierre

September 1st, 2020

Dear Council Member Brink,

Greetings from Arts South Dakota, our state's non-profit arts service and advocacy organization. During the few months your work as a city leader has required a new level of action as your community faces the unprecedented Coronavirus pandemic. I know all too well from conversations with community leaders across our state how much is on your plate these days, and not the least of which is budgeting and spending decisions for the upcoming year. It is clear most communities are facing revenue shortages and in turn, tough decisions will need to be made to balance the books.

Now is not the time to be pulling back funding for your arts and cultural organizations. *Now is the time to be sure they are healthy and creative and ready to lead your community forward.* Not only are the arts a consistent and significant driver of economic activity and a force for creative problem solving, but most importantly, the arts are the heart and soul of your community. As you consider what makes your town truly unique, your home, I would bet arts and cultural experiences are at the top of the list — activities like the Brookings Arts Councils' Joy Harjo residency, their new mural at the Brookings Public Library, all their classes and clubs, and their various community outreach and collaboration programs.

From the murals in Faulkton, to Riverboat Days in Yankton, Sculpture Walk in Sioux Falls, or the Rosebud Wacipi, our South Dakota communities are defined by their arts and culture. So as you consider how to invest limited resources for a better 2021, you must not forget the arts. They create community, bring big ideas to your citizens, serve as the "front door" to your visitors, and undoubtedly help power your economy. *Now is not the time to be pulling back funding from your arts and cultural organizations!*

Please find the enclosed infographics. I hope they serve as a tools to talk with your fellow city leaders about the importance of supporting the arts, even during this time of financial hardship. Consider Arts South Dakota an ally and know that I am happy to provide further information or dialogue if I can be of assistance. I believe it is your work as a local leader that has the greatest impact on the vitality of the arts in your community.

Best Regards,



Jim Speirs
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lance Bertram, Pierre	Sen. Troy Heinert, Mission	Jim Mathis, Sioux Falls
Brian Bonde, Sioux Falls	Brian Hildebrant, Brookings	Katrina Lehr-McKinney, Sioux Falls
Rep. Scyller J. Borglum, Rapid City	Dr. Craig Howe, Martin	Kenny Putnam, Rapid City
Stacy Braun, Aberdeen	Katie Hunhoff, Yankton	Shelley Stingley, Sioux Falls
Richard "Dick" Brown, Custer	Dr. Alan LaFave, Valley City	Lynn Verschoor, Brookings
Julie Garreau, Eagle Butte	Dale Lamphere, Sturgis	Kris Wollman, Pierre

September 1st, 2020

Dear Council Member Niemeyer,

Greetings from Arts South Dakota, our state's non-profit arts service and advocacy organization. During the few months your work as a city leader has required a new level of action as your community faces the unprecedented Coronavirus pandemic. I know all too well from conversations with community leaders across our state how much is on your plate these days, and not the least of which is budgeting and spending decisions for the upcoming year. It is clear most communities are facing revenue shortages and in turn, tough decisions will need to be made to balance the books.

Now is not the time to be pulling back funding for your arts and cultural organizations. *Now is the time to be sure they are healthy and creative and ready to lead your community forward.* Not only are the arts a consistent and significant driver of economic activity and a force for creative problem solving, but most importantly, the arts are the heart and soul of your community. As you consider what makes your town truly unique, your home, I would bet arts and cultural experiences are at the top of the list – activities like the Brookings Arts Councils' Joy Harjo residency, their new mural at the Brookings Public Library, all their classes and clubs, and their various community outreach and collaboration programs.

From the murals in Faulkton, to Riverboat Days in Yankton, Sculpture Walk in Sioux Falls, or the Rosebud Wacipi, our South Dakota communities are defined by their arts and culture. So as you consider how to invest limited resources for a better 2021, you must not forget the arts. They create community, bring big ideas to your citizens, serve as the "front door" to your visitors, and undoubtedly help power your economy. *Now is not the time to be pulling back funding from your arts and cultural organizations!*

Please find the enclosed infographics. I hope they serve as a tools to talk with your fellow city leaders about the importance of supporting the arts, even during this time of financial hardship. Consider Arts South Dakota an ally and know that I am happy to provide further information or dialogue if I can be of assistance. I believe it is your work as a local leader that has the greatest impact on the vitality of the arts in your community.

Best Regards,



Jim Speirs
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lance Bertram, Pierre	Sen. Troy Heinert, Mission	Jim Mathis, Sioux Falls
Brian Bonde, Sioux Falls	Brian Hildebrant, Brookings	Katrina Lehr-McKinney, Sioux Falls
Rep. Scyller J. Borglum, Rapid City	Dr. Craig Howe, Martin	Kenny Putnam, Rapid City
Stacy Braun, Aberdeen	Katie Hunhoff, Yankton	Shelley Stingley, Sioux Falls
Richard "Dick" Brown, Custer	Dr. Alan LaFave, Valley City	Lynn Verschoor, Brookings
Julie Garreau, Eagle Butte	Dale Lamphere, Sturgis	Kris Wollman, Pierre

September 1st, 2020

Dear Council Member Byrne,

Greetings from Arts South Dakota, our state's non-profit arts service and advocacy organization. During the few months your work as a city leader has required a new level of action as your community faces the unprecedented Coronavirus pandemic. I know all too well from conversations with community leaders across our state how much is on your plate these days, and not the least of which is budgeting and spending decisions for the upcoming year. It is clear most communities are facing revenue shortages and in turn, tough decisions will need to be made to balance the books.

Now is not the time to be pulling back funding for your arts and cultural organizations. *Now is the time to be sure they are healthy and creative and ready to lead your community forward.* Not only are the arts a consistent and significant driver of economic activity and a force for creative problem solving, but most importantly, the arts are the heart and soul of your community. As you consider what makes your town truly unique, your home, I would bet arts and cultural experiences are at the top of the list – activities like the Brookings Arts Councils' Joy Harjo residency, their new mural at the Brookings Public Library, all their classes and clubs, and their various community outreach and collaboration programs.

From the murals in Faulkton, to Riverboat Days in Yankton, Sculpture Walk in Sioux Falls, or the Rosebud Wacipi, our South Dakota communities are defined by their arts and culture. So as you consider how to invest limited resources for a better 2021, you must not forget the arts. They create community, bring big ideas to your citizens, serve as the "front door" to your visitors, and undoubtedly help power your economy. *Now is not the time to be pulling back funding from your arts and cultural organizations!*

Please find the enclosed infographics. I hope they serve as a tools to talk with your fellow city leaders about the importance of supporting the arts, even during this time of financial hardship. Consider Arts South Dakota an ally and know that I am happy to provide further information or dialogue if I can be of assistance. I believe it is your work as a local leader that has the greatest impact on the vitality of the arts in your community.

Best Regards,



Jim Speirs
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lance Bertram, Pierre	Sen. Troy Heinert, Mission	Jim Mathis, Sioux Falls
Brian Bonde, Sioux Falls	Brian Hildebrant, Brookings	Katrina Lehr-McKinney, Sioux Falls
Rep. Scyller J. Borglum, Rapid City	Dr. Craig Howe, Martin	Kenny Putnam, Rapid City
Stacy Braun, Aberdeen	Katie Hunhoff, Yankton	Shelley Stingley, Sioux Falls
Richard "Dick" Brown, Custer	Dr. Alan LaFave, Valley City	Lynn Verschoor, Brookings
Julie Garreau, Eagle Butte	Dale Lamphere, Sturgis	Kris Wollman, Pierre

September 1st, 2020

Dear Council Member Wendell,

Greetings from Arts South Dakota, our state's non-profit arts service and advocacy organization. During the few months your work as a city leader has required a new level of action as your community faces the unprecedented Coronavirus pandemic. I know all too well from conversations with community leaders across our state how much is on your plate these days, and not the least of which is budgeting and spending decisions for the upcoming year. It is clear most communities are facing revenue shortages and in turn, tough decisions will need to be made to balance the books.

Now is not the time to be pulling back funding for your arts and cultural organizations. *Now is the time to be sure they are healthy and creative and ready to lead your community forward.* Not only are the arts a consistent and significant driver of economic activity and a force for creative problem solving, but most importantly, the arts are the heart and soul of your community. As you consider what makes your town truly unique, your home, I would bet arts and cultural experiences are at the top of the list — activities like the Brookings Arts Councils' Joy Harjo residency, their new mural at the Brookings Public Library, all their classes and clubs, and their various community outreach and collaboration programs.

From the murals in Faulkton, to Riverboat Days in Yankton, Sculpture Walk in Sioux Falls, or the Rosebud Wacipi, our South Dakota communities are defined by their arts and culture. So as you consider how to invest limited resources for a better 2021, you must not forget the arts. They create community, bring big ideas to your citizens, serve as the "front door" to your visitors, and undoubtedly help power your economy. *Now is not the time to be pulling back funding from your arts and cultural organizations!*

Please find the enclosed infographics. I hope they serve as a tools to talk with your fellow city leaders about the importance of supporting the arts, even during this time of financial hardship. Consider Arts South Dakota an ally and know that I am happy to provide further information or dialogue if I can be of assistance. I believe it is your work as a local leader that has the greatest impact on the vitality of the arts in your community.

Best Regards,



Jim Speirs
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lance Bertram, Pierre	Sen. Troy Heinert, Mission	Jim Mathis, Sioux Falls
Brian Bonde, Sioux Falls	Brian Hildebrant, Brookings	Katrina Lehr-McKinney, Sioux Falls
Rep. Scyller J. Borglum, Rapid City	Dr. Craig Howe, Martin	Kenny Putnam, Rapid City
Stacy Braun, Aberdeen	Katie Hunhoff, Yankton	Shelley Stingley, Sioux Falls
Richard "Dick" Brown, Custer	Dr. Alan LaFave, Valley City	Lynn Verschoor, Brookings
Julie Garreau, Eagle Butte	Dale Lamphere, Sturgis	Kris Wollman, Pierre