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ARTSSOUTHDAKOTA.ORG



December 13, 2024

Dear friends in the arts,

Recently, I wrote an editorial about the importance of partnerships. Partnerships are vital to the health of our creative community. Arts South Dakota would not have the reach if not for our many partners, such as South Dakota's many community arts councils, rural service organizations like Dakota Resources and SDSU Extension, or the hundreds of donors and advocates from every part of our state and beyond who believe in our mission. Partnerships are vital. We believe in partnership, and we thrive because of our partners.

One of our significant partners, South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB), faces an unprecedented budget cut in the Governor's 2025 budget proposal. These cuts will lead to a drastic reduction in local programming, which means less focus and celebration of the creative community in our state. SDPB has consistently championed arts and culture in South Dakota.

To name a few:

- Dakota Life Artist Spotlights
- SD Activities Association annual coverage of high school "Art Wars," Allstate Jazz Bands, Orchestras, Choir and Concert Bands
- Live and recorded broadcasts of the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra
- Primetime TV specials, including our very own "Panorama" program by Dalton Coffey and a feature on Dale Lamphere
- Live and recorded coverage of the Governor's Awards in the Arts
- Live broadcasts featuring local jazz musicians on Jazz Nightly
- Coverage and programming partnership during the State Arts Conference
- Coverage of Poetry Out Loud
- And multiple, daily programs and sustained focus on the arts in our state. The list goes on and on!

Without a doubt, cutting 65% of SDPB's annual budget means less access to arts and culture in our state, especially in rural areas. This cut will disproportionately affect rural service, where SDPB's services and programming are most valued.



Arts South Dakota is proud to partner with SDPB. How else can we connect with all of our vast and rural state? SDPB's network covers 98% of the state's 77,000 square miles! What a resource, and we must protect it. Our mission is to advance the arts for South Dakotans and our visitors by connecting, advocating, and educating. We need partners to make this happen, especially SDPB.

I urge you to learn more about this legislative issue by visiting the SDBP Friends advocacy web page: <https://sdpbfriends.org/advocacy/>

If you believe in access to the arts for all South Dakotans, tell your legislators. Let them know that SDPB is a vital resource for our state.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Speirs", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jim Speirs
Executive Director