



The Grain Bin

Newsletter of The Granary Rural Cultural Center

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First sculpture debuts in “Walk with Dakota” *Dedication set for May 4*

Rural Electric Cooperatives across South and North Dakota have donated funds, materials and labor toward the Granary’s first major component in the “Walk with Dakota” Interpretive Landscape and Sculpture Garden.

One of eight sculptures called the “Staff of Life”, will be located at the central focal point of the Granary’s campus in the Reconciliation Center. It will consist of a 48-foot wooden power pole centered in a 27.5-foot Reconciliation Circle. The pole is surrounded by a series of spiraling metal strips and pipe, patterned like grains and tall native grasses. Stone benches around the base will offer visitors a place for contemplating all the common challenges that face peoples of our region.

“Walk with Dakota” will tell the story of Native American peoples that live in the Dakotas and the fortitude of families that came later with hopes for

the future.

Aberdeen artist Rebecca Mulvaney formulated the design concept for the “Staff of Life”.

“I chose ‘Staff of Life’ as a title because bread is often known as such,” she said. “The pole form also serves as a staff of support, both literally when used for tipis and figuratively when used as for life-enhancing power lines. The power supplied by the poles supports the farmers who plow the land and the grain gives life to a nation.”

LaVerne Gerling, a sculptor and artist from Ellendale, ND, has been chosen to design “Staff of Life”. He describes the project as “more than a body of work”. “It’s been a happening”, he said.

The public is welcome to attend the dedication on Sat May 4, with Sunday, May 5 set aside for a rain date.

Gallery addition will serve more artists, visitors

A new gift shop and gallery addition for the the Granary’s Memorial Gallery will provide more space for student and local artists, as well as provide better security, ventilation and natural lighting.

One of the main reasons for the project is the growing number of schools and artists exhibiting at the Granary. This increase can be attributed to a successful Outreach Program, increased marketing efforts, and local and regional support.

With events such as the upcoming 7th Annual All Dakota High School Fine Arts Exhibition May 2–5, the Granary has given more than 800 students the chance to exhibit original artworks, receive mentorship from professional artists and participate in high-quality workshops.

Ann Wampler, art teacher at Frederick and Hecla, has taken students every year to the high school event and sees the Granary progressing. “The added space is very much needed as the number of

schools continue climb every year of the exhibition,” she said.

The Granary’s Outreach Program has been introduced to 80 schools and almost 3,000 South and North Dakota students. Local artist Renee McKiver leads the project where she discusses cultural opportunities with youth interested in visual arts.

Wampler said she enjoyed McKiver’s visit. “The time (McKiver) spent in our classrooms was well worth it.” she said.

Every season, the Granary’s attendance at its fine arts programs continues to grow. Visitors from 40 states have learned more about early Dakota life at the facilities, in addition to tour buses, nursing home, church groups, and service clubs that have attended events on the 6-acre campus.

The new addition will feature:

- A 4 X 8 picture window and four large-screen rollout windows. Not only will natural lighting

be enhanced, but it will also provide a scenic view of the Reconciliation Area and grounds from the interior of the Yorkville Gallery and James River Room. These windows on the south side will provide cross-ventilation with screened windows on the north end of the Memorial Gallery. Ceiling fans will be installed, which will enhance ventilation.

- A more user-friendly east side entrance. The present north doorway with admission table creates crowding resulting in half of the Yorkville Gallery unavailable for exhibitions. Gallery attendants will greet guests from the new southeast visitors entrance. The new addition will also allow one volunteer to handle

gift shop items and provide a better view of all five galleries.

- A wheelchair-accessible steel door with grid glass which will provide better security.

Bids by local companies have made the addition appealing to begin as soon as funds become available. Prairie Partners Inc. of Sioux Falls returned an estimate of \$42,000. However, the decline of material prices and favorable bids from long-time supporters S & S Lumber, Harry Locke Electric and Jensen Construction brought the actual price to \$17,661.42. With added costs of the junipers and AmeriCorp labor costs, the project will come with a price tag of about \$20,000.

High School event keeps soaring!

For a second straight year, the Granary has seen a large increase in the number of schools registered for the 7th Annual All Dakota High School Fine Arts Exhibition May 2–3. With the addition of 12 new schools to this year’s roster, an extra day has been added to the event.

South Dakota Schools

Aberdeen Central High School
 Alpena High School
 Britton High School
 Clark High School
 DeSmet High School
 Deuel High School
 Edmunds Central High School
 Eureka High School
 Frederick High School
 Groton High School
 Hecla-Houghton High School
 Holgate Middle School
 Ipswich High School
 Lake Preston High School
 Langford High School
 Milbank High School
 Mobridge High School
 Mt. Vernon High School
 New Beginnings Center
 Northwestern High School
 Roncalli High School
 Selby High School
 Webster High School
 Woonsocket High School
 Wessington Springs High School

North Dakota Schools

Dickinson High School
 Edgeley High School
 Fargo North High School
 Lisbon High School
 Milnor High School

Exhibition judges are Dana Crooks from Brookings and Sharon Linnehan from Dickinson, ND. Keynote speaker is Northern State University Professor Mark Shekore. Workshop leaders and their focus sessions are Amy Woods, figure drawing; Lora Schaunaman, watercolor; and Ben Grote and Nick Fischer, pastel landscape design. The Northern Highlights Dance Team will provide noon entertainment.

A special focus session for teachers will discuss “Great Group Projects”, and a special challenge session for students will involve “Artistic Interpretation Through Music.”

Awards will be given out on Saturday, May 4 at 1:00. Dana Crooks will be available for questions following the ceremony where the Best of Show \$500 scholarship, Best South and North Dakota Scholl Traveling Trophies, and individual media awards will be given out.

Following the distribution of awards, roving musician Pet Burkhard will play blues, jazz and folk classics. The day will conclude with the “Staff of Life” Sculpture Dedication ceremony, which is open to the public.

As we kick off an exciting 2002 season, volunteers are needed to help at events and serve as gallery attendants. To help out, contact the Granary at (605) 397-4587.

2002 Events & Exhibitions

- **All Dakota High School Fine Arts Exhibition** “Realizing the Artist Within”
May 2–5, 7–12
Showcasing work from 29 Dakota Schools
Awards Ceremony – 1PM, Sat May 4
May 7–12 Extended Exhibition Viewing
- **“Staff of Life” Sculpture Dedication**
Sat, May 4
3:00–3:30 PM. Rain date set for Sun May 5
Lunch Served from 11:30–1:30 both days.
- **“Local Colors II”**
May 17–June 2
Invitational exhibition featuring regional women artists
Sun June 2 – Closing reception 3:00–5:00 PM
- **7th Annual All Dakota Fine Arts Festival**
Showcasing over 75 artists in the Dakotas
Fri, June 7 – Demonstrations: 11 AM, 2 PM
Sat, June 8 – Demonstrations: 11 AM, 2 PM, Awards ceremony: 1 PM, Entertainment by Back County Music, Lunch served from 11:30 – 1:30
Sun, June 9 – Demonstrations: 11 AM - 2 PM, Keepin’ It Country Line Dance Demonstration, Lunch served from 11:30 – 1:30.
Sun June 30 – Closing reception 3:00 – 5:00 PM
- **Annual Membership Meeting**
Sat Jun 29, 7:00 PM. Bring a dish to pass! (Not necessary)
- **“Vulcan’s Rainbow”:**
July 5 – July 28 – Invitational ceramics/glass exhibit
Sun, July 28 – Closing reception 3:00 - 5:00 PM
- **“Walk with Dakota” Traditional Native American Exhibit:**
Aug 2 - Sept 2, featuring work by traditional Native American Artists
Mon, Sept 2 – Closing reception 3:00 – 5:00 PM
- **“Risk Takers II”:** Sept 6 - 29; challenging artists to try a new medium
Sun Sept 29 – Closing reception 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Group discounts available! Open Tues - Sun 1:00 – 5:00 PM