



► FISCAL YEAR 2024

Return on Investment Report North Dakota





I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued partnership with Arts Midwest. Together, we are amplifying creativity across North Dakota and beyond.

In FY2024, we took steps to make the arts more inclusive. We launched the Midwest Award for Artists with Disabilities, giving \$3,000 awards to support visual artists and help them build their careers.

Our Creativity News Desk shared stories about the power of Midwestern creativity, focusing on Native, rural, and communities of color. We published 120 stories from across the region and brought together the Creative Midwest Media Cohort for an in-person learning retreat.

We also advanced our shared commitment to building new partnerships with federal agencies. In FY24, we connected with organizations like USDA Rural Development and Health and Human Services, working to identify new opportunities for the Midwest's creative sector.

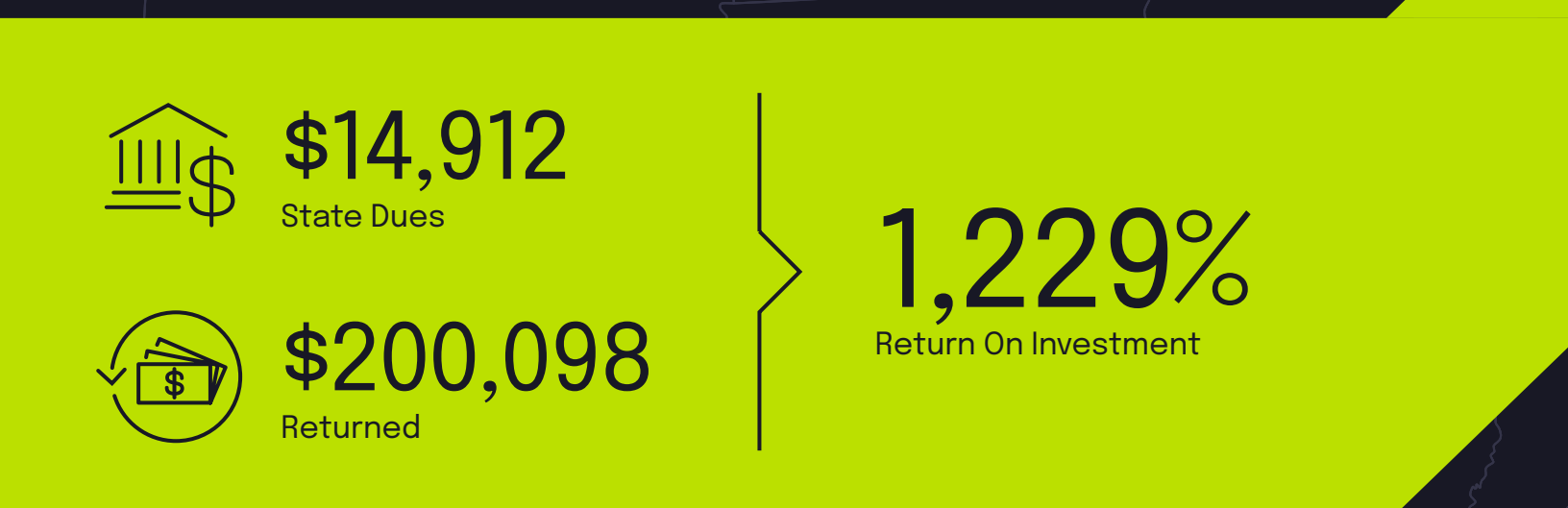
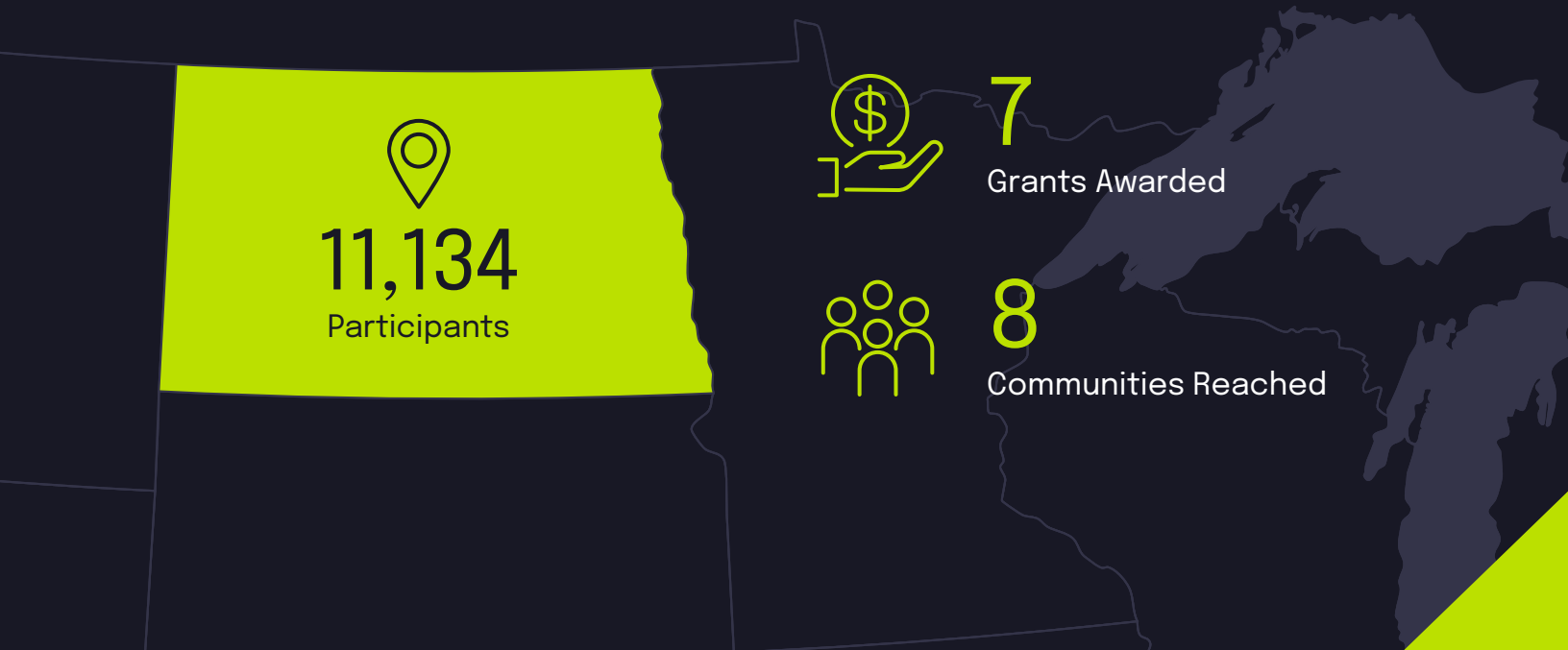
Throughout our grants, programs, and other services, we're proud to support creativity, arts, and culture in North Dakota, delivering a 1,229% return on investment to your constituents in FY24. We're excited for what lies ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Torrie Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Torrie Allen
President & CEO, Arts Midwest

North Dakota At A Glance

FY24: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



See the last page of this report for a full breakdown of our FY24 investment in North Dakota.



JAS Quintet from Sioux Falls, SD performs at the Grafton Performing Arts Center in Grafton, North Dakota, as supported by a Jazz Road Touring Grant. Photo by Alana Horton.

We invest time, funds, and resources in organizations and individuals that advance creativity in North Dakota.

<h3>Creative Midwest Media Cohort</h3> <p>We supported organizations in producing media projects that cover stories of Midwestern creativity through the Creative Midwest Media Cohort. This year-long pilot program included grants for storytelling projects and an in-person cohort convening in May 2024.</p>	1 Organization Supported	\$15,000 Awarded	3 Participants in North Dakota
<h3>GIG Fund</h3> <p>We distribute grants through the GIG Fund that support creative projects and educational events in the Midwest. These flexible funds help organizations present artists in their community by supporting programming and touring costs.</p>	3 Organizations Supported	\$12,000 Awarded	8,655 Participants in North Dakota
<h3>Midwest Award for Artists with Disabilities</h3> <p>We support accessibility in the arts and celebrate Midwestern creativity through the Midwest Award for Artists with Disabilities. Awardees receive \$3,000 and are encouraged to use it toward growing their artistic career.</p>	1 Artist Supported	\$3,000 Awarded	
<h3>NEA Big Read</h3> <p>We partner with the National Endowment for the Arts to deliver the NEA Big Read. The NEA Big Read provides grants to organizations that bring communities together to read and discuss a book.</p>	1 Organization Supported	\$20,000 Awarded	433 Participants in North Dakota
<h3>Special Initiatives - North Dakota</h3> <p>We provided support for the North Dakota Council on the Arts. This funding supported the travel and related costs for the Arts Across the Prairie Convening.</p>	1 Organization Supported	\$20,000 Awarded	



Attendees create dentalium jewelry at a workshop led by Shawna Fricke and Emma Goodhouse at Sacred Pipe Resource Center in Bismarck, North Dakota, as part of their We the Many programming. Photo courtesy of Sacred Pipe Resource Center.

Programs Overview

We support convenings, community artist residencies, and resource sharing opportunities in North Dakota.

<p>Creativity News Desk</p> <p>The Creativity News Desk amplifies stories about the power of arts and creativity in the Midwest. We commission stories from writers, photographers, videographers, illustrators, and podcasters across our region.</p>	<p>17 Stories Featuring North Dakota</p> <p>1,700 Readers in North Dakota</p>
<p>Ideas Hub</p> <p>We added ten new resources to the Ideas Hub, an online collection of free, curated articles and tools that help creative leaders foster growth within their organizations.</p>	<p>119 Readers in North Dakota</p>
<p>We the Many</p> <p>We supported communities in creating artist residency experiences through We the Many. Hosted in three states across the Midwest between 2022-2024, the program encouraged the exchange of voices, cultures, and ideas relevant to each community.</p>	<p>1 Organization Supported</p> <p>221 Participants in North Dakota</p>
<p>World Fest</p> <p>Through World Fest, we tour musicians to Midwestern communities to foster an understanding of and appreciation for global uniqueness and differences. In FY2024, World Fest artists engaged with communities in North Dakota through weeklong in-person residencies.</p>	<p>21 Events</p> <p>2,361 Participants in North Dakota</p>

We provide opportunities for staff at our partner State Arts Agencies to connect, learn, and give feedback.

State Arts Agency Connections

We hold semi-annual SAA Executive Director summits, bi-monthly video calls, regular check ins about our program and grants, and we gather when able at events like the NASAA Assembly. These conversations invite our members to discuss challenges and opportunities facing them, share ideas and resources, and consider future strategies for action. Our Board of Directors includes two SAA Executive Directors, who bring their expertise to Board meetings and discussions.

Federal Agency Work

Arts Midwest partners with the Midwest state arts agencies to build relationships with representatives of federal agencies. In FY24, this work included continued research into federal funding opportunities throughout the year; planning meetings to determine next steps with federal agencies; meetings with representatives of the National Endowment for the Arts, USDA Rural Development, Health & Human Services, and Economic Development Administration; and presenting on Arts Midwest and the Midwest State Arts Agencies to the Chicago Federal Executive Board.

Accessibility Support

We provide State Arts Agency accessibility coordinators with funding to attend the Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD®) conference.

Site Visits

Our staff visited North Dakota for 15 days this year for a placemaking workshop, SAA Summit, and We the Many programming.

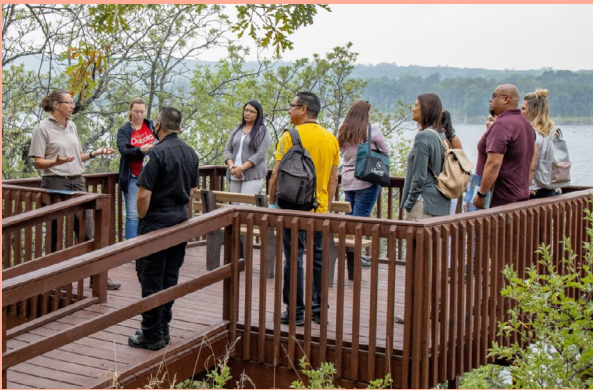
We collaborate with a network of writers, photographers, videographers, and illustrators to amplify impactful stories of arts, culture, and creativity in the Midwest.



Connecting Bismarck’s Indigenous Community Through Culture, Art, and Kindness

By Mandy Shunnarah

Sacred Pipe Resource Center is a home away from home for many Indigenous peoples in Bismarck, North Dakota’s urban area.



Rethinking Tourism in North Dakota with Native Nations

By Alicia Hegland-Thorpe

The North Dakota Native Tourism Alliance comprises vaims to reclaim the narrative of Indigenous communities and build economies through tourism.



This Nonprofit Platforms Asian Artists in North Dakota

By Alicia Hegland-Thorpe

As part of the fastest growing Asian population in the country, the co-founders of North Dakota Asian-American Arts and Culture Initiative are creating welcoming spaces for new residents.



JAS Quintet from Sioux Falls, SD performs at the Grafton Performing Arts Center in Grafton, North Dakota, as supported by a Jazz Road Touring Grant. Photo by Alana Horton.

FY24 Grants Awarded

Grant Opportunity	Grantee or Awardee	City	Congressional District	Grant Amount
GIG Fund	ArtWise	Grand Forks	At-large	\$4,000
Midwest Award for Artists with Disabilities	Bonnie Lee	Fargo	At-large	\$3,000
Creative Midwest Media Cohort	Buffalo's Fire	Halliday	At-large	\$15,000
GIG Fund	Lake Region Arts Center	Devils Lake	At-large	\$4,000
GIG Fund	NDAACI	Mandan	At-large	\$4,000
Special Projects	North Dakota Council on the Arts	Bismarck	At-large	\$20,000
NEA Big Read	Spirit Room	Fargo	At-large	\$20,000
7 Awardees				\$70,000

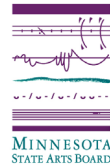
Arts Midwest leverages public and private dollars to bring services to North Dakota.

Grants + Programs	GIG Fund	\$12,000
	NEA Big Read	\$20,000
	Midwest Award for Artists with Disabilities	\$3,000
	World Fest	
	Programming Costs	\$61,407
	We the Many	
	Programming Costs	\$24,022
	Creativity News Desk	
	Programming Costs	\$38,585
	Grants	\$15,000
	Special Projects	\$20,000
Services	SAA Summits	\$2,882
	Accessibility Support	\$1,333
	Total services and grants	\$200,098
	FY24 State Dues	\$14,912
	Services and grants in excess of dues	\$185,186
	Return on Investment	1,229%

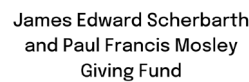
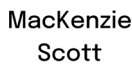
National Endowment for the Arts



State Arts Agencies



Foundations, Corporations, and Other Government Funders



Arts Midwest's activities are made possible by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature general fund.

Thank You

If you have questions about the information in this report, or if you would like more information about Arts Midwest's programs and services, please contact:

Anne Romens

Vice President

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Cover: LADAMA performs at an Artists After Hours event presented by the Minot Area Council of the Arts as part of their World Fest residency in Minot, North Dakota. Photo by Ashley Vanley.