



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Dana Hager, Executive Director
701-258-9101
director@ndano.org

Konikow to Receive Walt Odegaard Leadership Award

BISMARCK – Kim Konikow, executive director at North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA), is this year’s recipient of the North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations’ (NDANO) Walt Odegaard Leadership Award.

NDANO will present the 2024 North Dakota Nonprofits Awards during a luncheon at noon CT on May 30 at the Bismarck Event Center. The luncheon is the closing event for the North Dakota Nonprofit Leadership Conference. Tickets for the Awards Luncheon are available at www.ndano.org.

The Walt Odegaard Leadership Award is given to an individual who has had influence on strengthening North Dakota and its nonprofit sector through his or her long-term commitment to leadership, volunteerism and/or philanthropy. This award recognizes an individual’s dedication and achievements throughout his/her lifetime.

Konikow has had a tremendous impact on the arts in North Dakota. During her tenure at NDCA, Konikow successfully advocated to increase the agency’s budget, offered several new accessible programs for underserved communities, and expanded staff capacity to manage those programs. Among her efforts is the *Arts Across the Prairie: Placemaking in Rural North Dakota* program. It is a first-of-its-kind, statewide, public art program, a reinvention from being recognized solely as a funding agency to a community partner and connector utilizing arts activities. Eight large-scale public installations – one for each geographic region in the state – will be created that reflect the unique history, landscape, and cultural heritage of these regions. All eight works will be placed in rural locations.

“Konikow is a powerhouse when it comes to advocating for the arts in ND,” says Rhea Beto, NDCA public information officer. Dana Hager, NDANO executive director, said “NDANO is honored to recognize her impact across the state.”

All 2024 award recipients will be recognized at the North Dakota Nonprofit Leadership Conference, which brings together participants from across the state to participate in educational sessions, network and exchange ideas. To register, visit www.ndano.org.

NDANO is the statewide membership association for the North Dakota nonprofit sector. Its mission is to educate, advocate and connect to strengthen nonprofits.

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