



September 10, 2018

Dear :

I hope you had a fabulous summer. It's always sad to put summer in the past tense, but we hope you're as excited for fall and the start of the full arts calendar as we are.

The Arts Partnership has a year of game-changing growth. You may have read about the opportunities we've had to travel and learn from arts and business leaders in communities far and wide. That has translated into an increased understanding of, and ability to articulate, how the arts serve dual goals – economic and cultural – for *our* community. Through expanded programming at APT, our creative incubator, we're serving more artists and reaching broader and more diverse audiences. We've also dramatically increased grant dollars to organizations and individual artists.

Through all this growth, however, one thing remains true: your support of The Arts Partnership has ensured we are creating a fabulous, and expanding, ripple effect in the arts community and beyond.

Let me tell you about Sue, an avid writer and one of our funders. Sue asked us to use her donation toward a studio at APT for a writer who couldn't afford to rent space.

Poet Emily Vieweg received that grant, ecstatic about having a studio that was part of an artistic community. In her short time there, Emily has won international writing awards, participated in a group show about the arts and mental health at APT, collaborated with a visual artist to create poetry broadsides and sold copies of her poetry books at our art markets. Emily enthuses, "This grant definitely gave me inspiration for new things!"

All of that from a \$1,800 investment in The Arts Partnership by Sue. It's these kinds of stories that your support creates. The Arts Partnership is thrilled to connect your donations to make meaningful differences in the lives of artists, arts organizations and members of the community.

That success would be enough, but there's a follow-up to the story. The morning after Emily read her poetry at the art and mental health reception, we received this message from an audience member:

I didn't want to go inside on a night like tonight. Summer is short. Yet Emily is my friend, and I'd never heard her read her poetry, so I went. What I thought was a courtesy by me wasn't. She moved me, made me weep in public. Still, when she was done, I was done. So I slinked toward the exit, toward summer. But in the 30 seconds that took, John [a visual artist participating in the exhibit] started to speak, and I was sucked back in. Suddenly, summer didn't matter anymore. I just wanted to hear his story. And my night was complete.

So not only did Sue's donation transform the life and work of a local poet, it transformed the life of at least one audience member, and we know from additional conversations that he was not the only one.

Your gift of \$1000 will allow us to do even more in the Metro as we dive into the busy season of creating opportunities with, advocating for and communicating about the arts.\*

Together, let's see where the arts take us this year!

Sincerely,

Dayna Del Val  
President & CEO The Arts Partnership

\* I want to let you know about a change for The Arts Partnership. After five years of successful participation in Giving Hearts Day, our board and staff have decided we won't be actively involved going forward.

Your past support has encouraged us to be bold and take this substantial risk in meeting our own fundraising goals.

As the Metro's umbrella arts organization, it has felt inappropriate to "compete" with our colleague arts organizations on that day. We can better advocate for – and hopefully boost the success of – the participating arts organizations if we are not also attempting to raise funds at the same time. We are excited about this new direction and hope you are, too!

! Please also plan to join us at Drekker's new location (1666 1st Ave N in Fargo) to celebrate the conclusion of our month-long campaign on **Thursday, October 11th from 5-8 pm** where a portion of your purchases will also support The Arts Partnership.