



FARGO THEATRE

314 Broadway
Fargo, ND 58102
www.FargoTheatre.org

March 23, 2021

To the members of the North Dakota Senate Appropriations Committee,

My name is Emily Beck and I am the Executive Director of the Fargo Theatre, a nonprofit arts organization and historic landmark. Built in 1926, the Fargo Theatre has been lighting up our downtown community for generations. Our diverse slate of arts programming includes film, live music, comedy, and dance. We also host a variety of community events and festivals. The last year has been incredibly challenging for the Fargo Theatre and many of our colleagues in the ND arts community. The Theatre has been closed since March 18, 2020. This closure has resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in ticketing, concession, and rental revenue. While we plan to reopen this spring, the shortage of available film and event product will likely mean additional losses throughout the summer.

I am writing today to support the ND Council on the Arts' request to receive an additional reallocation of unspent CRF moneys. The NDCA has always been an incredibly important partner and source of support for the Fargo Theatre. We have been fortunate to be a regular recipient of their Institutional Support Grants, funding that has helped our organization grow and thrive. In 2020, the NDCA came to our aid when the need was great. The Fargo Theatre received additional grant funding for general operating expenses. We were filled with relief and gratitude. These dollars were absolutely critical as we navigated unprecedented challenges and helped see us through the most uncertain times. This support is a major reason our organization remains strong and ready to return to our programming. The NDCA's work will ensure that North Dakota's arts community will continue enriching the cultural fabric of our state. We are grateful for all that they do and I strongly encourage you to provide them with additional financial resources to continue that work.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to North Dakota.

Emily Beck
Executive Director, Fargo Theatre
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