NET June 17, 2009
Park City, UT
Jodi Bruns, NDSU Extension, Dickey County
Kathy Tweeten, NDSU Extension Center for Community Vitality
Initiative – to build community through cultivation of the cultural arts.

“Cultural arts comprise fine arts, the humanities, and the development of heritage resources. These things are worth doing for their own sake, because they enrich the quality of life and strengthen the social fabric. Cultural arts no longer can be considered a luxury or an enrichment. They are essential infrastructure for competing in the new economy, where for many…. location is a matter of choice.”

Tom Isern, NDSU
Cultural arts are an essential part of building community vitality.

Fine arts, the humanities and development of heritage resources enrich the quality of life and strengthen a community’s social fabric.
Initiative Assumptions

1. We can make a difference in our communities.
2. The cultural arts are central to making a difference.
Constituency

1. Core leadership
2. Collaborators
3. General Public
Model

1. The approach is holistic.
2. The approach is incremental.
3. The initiative is inclusive.
4. The emphasis is on authenticity.
Cadre of leaders

Workshop

Year long follow-up

Explore how to create an environment for arts and cultural activity in your community.

Friday, May 6

Tuesday, May 9

Thursday, May 11

Dickey County Courthouse, Ellendale

Walsh High School

Putnam House, Carrington

Building Community Through Arts and Heritage
Workshop Objectives

• Showcase area artists
• Help community leaders develop a strategic plan to promote the cultural arts
• Introduce area adults and youth to cultural wealth in their community
Getting Excited About the Arts
Anticipated Outcomes

1. Communities will recognize and organize to develop and market the resources in the cultural arts that they have.
2. Specific new initiatives in the cultural arts will be planned and executed successfully.
3. A cadre of leadership in the cultural arts will be established.
4. The cultural arts will be networked into community organizations, and public enthusiasm for such activities as agents of community vitality will be visibly increased.
5. Assessment will provide the basis for future initiatives.
Workshop in Ellendale puts focus on arts

From staff reports

ELLENDALE, N.D. — Tuesday, a workshop entitled "Building Community Vitality through the Arts" will be held at the Dickey County Courthouse and the Ellendale High School gym in Ellendale, N.D.

The day's events will include a discussion among local artists and community leaders, an art exhibit and sale, and a glassblowing demonstration.

The program, sponsored by North Dakota State University, is designed to help rural communities energize themselves by creating an environment that supports artists and cultural activity.

According to Tom Isern, a professor in the NDSU Department of History and one of the workshop's presenters, developing the cultural arts — fine arts, humanities and a community's heritage — is worthwhile because they enrich the quality of life and strengthen a community's social fabric.

"Given the mobility and opportunities deriving from technological changes in our society, however, the community is no longer can be considered a luxury or an enrichment," he said in a press release. "They are essential infrastructure for competing in the new economy, where for many people and companies, location is a matter of choice."

"Building Community Vitality Through Arts and Heritage" will help community members create a strategy to develop the area and youth to the cultural arts and work with the school district to showcase area talent.

On Offutt of Fargo, N.D., is the recognized artist blown glassblower who will be on the lawn of the courthouse.

Regional artists are encouraged to reserve a space to display their art or to join in the discussion. Call Dickey County Extension Agent Jodi Bruns at (701) 349-3249, ext. 2, to register.

Ellendale workshop participants may register at the Dickey County Courthouse commissioner's office beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Artists with items for sale and/or display may call Dickey County Extension Agent Jodi Bruns at (701) 349-3249, ext. 2, to register.

Check-in for artists begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Ellendale Public School gym. The artists' roundtable with Offutt will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the gym.

Regional artists are encouraged to reserve a space to display their art or to join in the discussion. A strategic planning session is scheduled at 1 p.m. in the commissioner's office with Isern presiding. The goal is to identify resources and opportunities in the community, to design a plan to enhance and support the arts, and to develop an arts project for the upcoming year.

Participants will include local artists, economic development officials, representatives from local government entities, the school district, local historical societies, parks and recreation departments, and other interested citizens who would like to see the development of vitality enhancement in this community.

For more information, contact Bruns by phone or e-mail at jbruns@ndsuext.nodak.edu.

Culture strengthens town's economy

By Jonathan Knutson

Jeanette Robb-Ruenz's top goal is strengthening the cultural life of Ellendale, N.D.

If you go:
- What is it: North Dakota State University for Community Vitality's "Building Community Vitality through Arts and Heritage" workshop.
- When: 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Where: Wahalla High School - May 3;
  Ellendale, Dickey County Courthouse and Ellendale Public School - May 4;
  Carrington, Patton House - May 11
- Cost: Free and open to all
- More info: (701) 328-8716

The Ellendale workshop is one of three such sessions in a yearlong pilot program sponsored by the North Dakota State University Center for Community Vitality.

The workshops will help Robb-Ruenz and other community leaders identify the assets that make up their community and develop a plan to strengthen it. The 200 people who attend the workshop will be divided into small groups and will interact with representatives from other communities to learn about the issues and challenges facing others.

"Our communities are unique and have their own strengths," said Knutson. "This workshop provides an opportunity for our community to come together and explore strategies for improving our quality of life."
Lessons Learned

• Not everyone will embrace the idea of tourism, especially arts & heritage as an economic engine.

• Don’t be afraid to look at existing resources differently. Ex. Are there non-traditional leaders that you could ask to be involved? **Rediscover what you already have.**

• Promote, promote, promote!!!!
Upcoming Events

Some Enchanted Evening
Do and Discover
Ethnic Days
Homestead Week
Jame Eberle Photo Exhibition
Museum of Art & Animals
Sculptor- Guillermo Hart
Christmas on the Prairie Parade
Smithsonian “Journey Stories” Event in 2010
Results

- A heightened awareness of existing art and heritage resources as potential economic development
- Increased revenue for artists, ex. Sale of photos to Agraria restaurant
- Renewed interest in refurbishing historic buildings and creating new uses for them
- Arts councils formed-New leadership developed
- Renewed sense of hope for positive change
Center for Heritage Renewal

- Fall Suppers of the Northern Plains
- Highways & Trails of the WPA
- Remembrance in Stone
- Big Things of the Northern Plains

Preservation North Dakota

Prairie Churches
Hutmacher Farmstead

Building Community Vitality Through Cultural Arts
Center for Community Vitality, NDSU Extension
The Mucha of Pisek
Saints Cyril
and Methodius
Cast iron crosses
Charles Andera Foundry
Spillville IA
Principles of Grassroots Heritage Tourism

Stop:
- Building things
- Destroying things

Start:
- Constructing an infrastructure for independent travelers
- Establishing a culture of hospitality
Moving Ahead

- German’s From Russia Heritage Collection - Oral History Workshops and Tour
- Great Plains Extension Tourism Working Group
- Assessment of Cultural and Heritage Tourism across North Dakota
Questions? Comments?