



News in our Community –
February 25, 2010

DAKOTA CREATIVE CONNECTIONS SUSPENDS GRANTMAKING

Over the course of two years, artists from North Dakota and South Dakota collaborated with the Bush Foundation to explore new ways of supporting the professional development of artists in the region through the **Dakota Creative Connections** grant program. During this time, the Foundation made [20 grants](#) totaling over \$99,000 to support artists in the Dakotas.

The Bush Foundation will not be accepting any additional applications for funding under this program as it is currently configured. As part of its *Goals for a Decade*, the Bush Foundation has been working to bring its programs into clearer focus on educational achievement, Native nation rebuilding, and leadership and community engagement. We hope that the lessons learned from Dakota Creative Connections can help us in this work, and can also be of help to artists and arts organizations across the Dakotas.

As planned, the 2009 grantees will be invited to two retreats in 2010, and will be asked to help formulate the lessons learned through this work. Ultimately, the Bush Foundation will release a report on the findings from this project, so that other individual or organizational funders can benefit from what we've learned during these two years.

We look forward to learning from Dakota Creative Connections and are grateful to all the artists who have participated in co-creating this work with us.

If you have any questions, please contact the Bush Artist Program at artists@bushfoundation.org.