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Plains Art Museum Receives Major Gift for Center for Creativity *Donation – and challenge grant – to make Museum annex a reality in 2012*

FARGO, N.D. – The Plains Art Museum today announced that it has received a major gift toward the \$2.85 million capital campaign for its Museum annex Center for Creativity project. The Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Trust has given an additional \$300,000 to the campaign, with Burgum family members also issuing a \$200,000 challenge grant.

Aimed at both students and adults, the Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Center for Creativity is an innovative collaboration between Plains Art Museum, Fargo Public Schools, and community artists. It will offer a dynamic studio and exhibition space for learning, discussion, and display of created work. Located to the west of the Museum, it will replace the Fargo Public School district's Creative Arts Studio at Clara Barton Elementary. The district will be the cornerstone client at the Center, sending at least 5,000 K-5 students in the 2012-13 school year for gallery and studio learning at the Museum and Center. After its inaugural year, participation is expected rise to at least 12,000 students annually, including students from other area school districts.

"We are so thankful to everyone who has given their time, talent and resources to our Center for Creativity capital campaign; it has truly been a remarkable effort. With this additional gift, we are able to realize a dream that has been years in the making," said Museum Director Colleen Sheehy. "We are truly grateful to the Burgum family for making this possible, and we are honored to recognize Katherine Kilbourne Burgum for her pioneering work as an arts advocate and educator in our region."

For the Center to be ready for students by fall 2012, construction needs to begin in January. To act as a catalyst for ensuring that construction does indeed begin in early 2012, the Burgum family has issued a \$200,000 grant challenge. To receive the challenge grant funds in their entirety, donations received by the Museum to its Center for Creativity capital campaign between now and December 31, 2011, must reach \$200,000.

"Through the challenge grant, we hope to inspire other donors to make their gifts so the doors of the Center for Creativity can open in the fall of 2012," said James Burgum, entrepreneur and grandson of Katherine Kilbourne Burgum. "We're making the challenge grant in honor of my late father, Brad Burgum, who was a strong supporter of the arts and a strong believer in the power of challenges."

In addition to the gift announced today, the Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Trust made a \$200,000 gift to the capital campaign in 2008.

"We're extremely thankful to all those donors who have helped get the capital campaign to where it is today. It's an incredible testament to the commitment they have to enhancing the vibrancy of our community through the arts," said entrepreneur and philanthropist Doug Burgum, one of Katherine Kilbourne Burgum's three children. "'K', as our mother was known to so many, was a believer in the concept that art should be present and accessible for everyone in day-to-day life. She undoubtedly would have been a tireless supporter of the Center for Creativity and would be incredibly honored that the Center bears her name."

For more information on supporting the Museum through the challenge grant, visit www.plainsart.org/support or call 701-232-3821. Donations can be mailed to the Museum at P.O. Box 2338, Fargo, N.D., 58108.

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About Plains Art Museum

Plains Art Museum is located at 704 First Avenue North in downtown Fargo. It is accredited by the American Association of Museums and is a nonprofit, regional fine arts museum with plans to significantly expand its programs through its "Little Artist in All of Us" campaign. The campaign is raising funds for the Center for Creativity which includes working with Fargo Public Schools and other educational entities to build teaching studios. The campaign is also strengthening operations by enhancing the Museum's endowment and visitor services.

Museum programs are made possible, in part, by major funding from members of the Museum, The FUNd at Plains Art Museum, the cities of Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo through The Arts Partnership, The McKnight Foundation, the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature, the North Dakota Council on the Arts through an appropriation by the North Dakota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. More information is available at 701.232.3821 or at www.plainsart.org.

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