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## Plains Art Museum Meets Burgum Family Challenge Match Goal

Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Center for Creativity to open in fall of 2012

**FARGO, N.D.** – Plains Art Museum announced today that it reached—and surpassed—a \$200,000 challenge grant fundraising goal set by the Burgum family of Fargo. The funds will be used toward construction of the Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Center for Creativity at Plains Art Museum.

The challenge grant was announced on December 15, the same day that a \$300,000 donation from the Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Trust was announced for the Center for Creativity project. For the Center to be ready for students by fall 2012, construction needs to begin this month. To act as a catalyst for ensuring that construction does indeed begin in early 2012, the Burgum family issued the \$200,000 grant challenge. For the Plains Art Museum to receive the challenge grant funds in their entirety, donations needed to be received by December 31, 2011. A total of 78 donors contributed \$250,000, exceeding the goal set by the challenge grant. With the money raised, construction will soon begin on the Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Center for Creativity.

“What a holiday it was with the phenomenal outpouring of generosity from so many people, businesses, and foundations who responded to the Burgum family challenge,” said Colleen Sheehy, museum director and CEO. “I’m so thankful to the Burgums and to everyone who came through in such a short period of time for this match. Now the Center will become a reality that will benefit our youth and the whole community.”

The Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Center for Creativity will open in fall of 2012. Its programs will replace the current Creative Arts Studio at Clara Barton Elementary and will provide services for 6,000 Fargo Public School students and 8,000 total participants in its first year of operation. In subsequent years, 8,000 K-12 students and 12,000 total participants will make use of the Center’s programs, with services provided to other area school districts in addition to Fargo. Students will have access to the Center’s art education in the four studio classrooms and large ceramics studio. Student art shows and other project spaces are also included in the plans. Adult art classes, a teen program, and visiting artists programs are also planned to meet the need for a widely accessible community art center.

“This is a tremendous example of the impact that can be made when people come together,” said entrepreneur and philanthropist Doug Burgum, one of Katherine Kilbourne Burgum’s three children. “Because of the generosity of so many individuals, our community will benefit for years and years to come. On behalf of the Burgum family, ‘thank you’ to everyone who has helped make the dream of a Center for Creativity a reality.”

“We were inspired to make the challenge grant alongside the Katherine Kilbourne Burgum trust gift as a way to honor my late father, Brad Burgum, and his love of the arts that was shared by my grandmother K,” said James Burgum, entrepreneur and grandson of Katherine Kilbourne Burgum.

Construction on the Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Center for Creativity will begin after the Museum’s board of directors approves the bids and contractors in mid-January. The Museum soon will launch a grassroots campaign to invite donations from everyone who wants to be part of completing the dream of the Center. The grassroots campaign aims to raise \$50,000 to \$75,000 for energy and operational efficiency improvements, an art installation wall for donor recognition, the naming of the ceramics studio for artist Robert Kurkowski, electrical signage, and other features. Four historic downtown buildings will be rehabbed and made into one unified building for the Center, located on First Avenue North next to the Museum. The buildings will be linked by a skyway.

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**About Plains Art Museum**

Plains Art Museum is located at 704 First Avenue North. 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 Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Center for Creativity has been the cornerstone project of the campaign, which also included the commissioning of a major mural by North Dakota native James Rosenquist, which was installed in September 2010 and adds to the Museum's endowment while enhancing 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](http://www.plainsart.org).

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