

July 20, 2015

For Immediate Release

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Warren W. Kessler Received a Professional Development Grant

In support of his efforts to enhance the artistic quality of his work through lifelong learning, Warren W. Kessler has been awarded a \$400.00 Professional Development Grant by the North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA).

The NDCA's Professional Development Grant program is designed to benefit artists by providing financial assistance for informational/educational opportunities relating to the arts and arts development. Arts organizations also benefit from the program through grants to aid in providing staff/board/volunteer training opportunities or for hiring consultants and technical or artistic directors.

The provided funds enabled Warren W. Kessler to attend the Plein Air Duluth: Paint du Nord in Duluth MN. He was one of thirty-five painters juried into the inaugural Plein Air Duluth: Paint du Nord being held July 12-17, 2015 in Duluth, Minnesota put on by the Duluth Art Institute. It was a six day event promoting plein air painting (a French phrase for 'painting in the open air') within a thirty mile radius of Duluth, MN. On Friday, July 17th, awards were presented by the event juror, nationally renowned painter Andy Evenson.

The grant covered the travel expenses associated with attending Plein Air Duluth 2015. By participating in this event Warren was able to dedicate six days entirely to painting Duluth MN, enabling him to get out of his comfort zone of painting the Great Plains. It also allowed Warren to make connections with many other established Plein Air painters, Duluth art patrons, Duluth art Galleries, as well as help introduce Plein Air painting to the general public while he painted on location around Duluth. Warren was also able to attend the very informative plein air painting demonstration put on by the Juror Andy Evenson. All of these opportunities allowed by attending and participating in Plein Air Duluth 2015 have already shown a positive impact on his future as a fine artist in North Dakota.

This project was supported in part by a grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, which receives funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. In addition, Warren W. Kessler gratefully acknowledges others who made this opportunity possible, including The Arts Partnership, Fargo ND.

The application deadline for Professional Development Grants is four weeks prior to the start of the activity. For more information, contact the Council on the Arts at 701-328-7594 or visit www.nd.gov/arts.



NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS



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