

May 26, 2020

A Letter from Minnesota Arts and Cultural Leaders

Minnesota has long been defined by the richness and diversity of the organizations that make up the cultural fabric of our community. Minnesota cultural institutions—which serve 23 million children and adults annually—provide thousands of jobs and an overall quality of life that attracts commerce and widespread talent to our state. Our theaters, museums, and learning spaces contribute to the social fabric of our state by bringing diverse communities together to foster empathy and develop a greater understanding and appreciation of our shared cultural heritage. In addition, students throughout the region benefit from our robust education and enrichment programs. Our Minnesota communities have treasured arts and culture throughout the state, and we want you to know the cultural community is here and will be here for Minnesotans.

We hear from many of you that you miss the arts and cultural experiences and that you look forward to visiting local institutions again. As eager as we all are to come back together in person, we know that having the confidence to do so safely is key to your making the decision to once again head out and enjoy the rich and varied experiences Minnesota's cultural organizations offer to you and your families.

We assure you that we will once again open our doors, but only when we can do so with your health and safety at the forefront of our considerations. We are working together to identify and share best practices to ensure we bring the safest and highest quality experience forward when we reopen. We fully recognize that protocols and timeframes for museums may differ from those of theaters and performance halls, but by working together, we strive to provide a consistent experience to meet the highest expectations of all visitors to our venues.

We continue to follow the thoughtful, science-based guidance of Governor Walz, state legislators, and medical experts to provide the safe return of our staffs and the safe return of our guests when gatherings are once again permitted. We are all looking forward to this as much as we know you are.

In the meantime, we want to stay engaged with you. Many of us are providing virtual content and programs on our websites and through social media. While we recognize that no virtual experience will ever compare to the thrill of live performance, the up-close exploration of a work of art, the in person learning, or the fascination of a shared discovery, we also recognize that it may be awhile before we are able to come together again.

We will invite you to return with as much fanfare as possible when the time is right. Until then, stay engaged and rest assured that your safe return is our top priority.

Sincerely,

Peter Brosius | Artistic Director
Children's Theatre Company

Mary Ceruti | Executive Director
Walker Art Center

Kyle Carpenter | Chief Executive Officer
MacPhail Center for Music

Nicole Chamberlain-Dupree | Executive Director
Minnesota Marine Art Museum, Winona

Anja Chávez | Director
Tweed Museum of Art, Duluth

Sheila Dickinson | Artistic Director
Rochester Art Center, Rochester

Christine Gradl Seitz | Executive & Artistic Director
Duluth Playhouse

Joseph Haj | Artistic Director
Guthrie Theater

Hannah K. Holman | Interim Executive Director
Minnesota Theater Alliance

Bob Johnson | Executive Director
Paramount Center for the Arts, St. Cloud

Lyndel King | Director & Chief Curator
Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum

Jon Limbacher | Managing Director & President
The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra

Katie Luber | Nivin and Duncan MacMillan Director &
President
Minneapolis Institute of Art

Kristin Makhholm | Executive Director
Minnesota Museum of American Art

Michelle Miller Burns | President & CEO
Minnesota Orchestra

Lin Nelson-Mayson | Director
Goldstein Museum of Design

Blake Potthoff | Executive Director
Fairmont Opera House & President of the Minnesota
Presenters Network

Michael Sanders | President & CEO
The Bakken Museum

Doug Scholz-Carlson | Artistic Director
Great River Shakespeare Festival

Sanjit Sethi | President
Minneapolis College of Art & Design

Ryan Taylor | President & General Director
Minnesota Opera

Aaron Young | Managing Director
Great River Shakespeare Festival

Jamee Yung | Chair
Minnesota Association of Museums

John Crippen | Executive Director
Hennepin History Museum

Lori Forshee-Donnay | Executive Director
Watermark Art Center, Bemidji

Jamie Grant | President & CEO
Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

James Haskins | Managing Director
Guthrie Theater

Paul Jenson Organisak | Executive Director
The O'Shaughnessy, St. Catherine University

Bruce Karstadt | President & CEO
American Swedish Institute

Dianne Krizan | President
Minnesota Children's Museum

Kelley Lindquist | President & CEO
Artspace & the Cowles Center for Dance & the
Performing Arts

Scott Lykins | Artistic & Executive Director
Lakes Area Music Festival, Brainerd

Mark J. Meister | Executive Director & President
The Museum of Russian Art

Kimberly Motes | Managing Director
Children's Theatre Company

Mark Nerenhausen | President & CEO
Hennepin Theatre Trust

Alison Rempel Brown | President & CEO
Science Museum of Minnesota

Kari Schloner | Director
Northrop at the University of Minnesota

Sarah Schultz | Executive Director
American Craft Council

Amy Stoller Stearns | Executive Director
Historic Holmes Theatre/Detroit Lakes Community &
Cultural Center

Kent Whitworth | Director & CEO
Minnesota Historical Society

Denise Young | Executive Director
Bell Museum