

# BRIDGES ARTS COUNCIL

Volume 1- October 2020



## BRIDGES ARTS COUNCIL SEEKS VIRTUAL ART OPPORTUNITIES

If you know of an artist or performer that is interested in doing a virtual performance, class, or other art/cultural event in a safe, digital format the Bridges Arts Council wants to hear from you. Please contact us at [info@bridgesarts.org](mailto:info@bridgesarts.org).

## BRIDGES ARTS COUNCIL

The Bridges Arts Council is an organization that has been in existence since 2001 and is excited to open up a new chapter in its history with an increased presence in the community and more arts/cultural opportunities being offered to Valley City and its surrounding areas. With the hiring of a part-time arts administrator we have the ability to bring ideas to fruition and are looking for new arts events for the upcoming 2021 season. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has altered the way that we pursue arts/cultural opportunities for the local area, but it has not changed our organization's commitment to the arts and to creating a larger presence for the arts here in the beautiful Sheyenne Valley River Valley.

### Did you know?

The Bridges Arts Council sponsors arts/cultural events in the local area through grants/partnerships. If you are interested in pursuing funding through the Bridges Arts Council please fill out our grant form that can be accessed on [bridgesarts.org](http://bridgesarts.org)

---

*“Though the COVID-19 crisis has had a severe emotional and economic impact on the artistic community, artists are regrouping and reinventing themselves for this new normal” –*

*Mandanmohan Rao*

---



Nick Lee- Arts Administrator Bridges Arts Council/Executive Director North Dakota Art Gallery Association

## MEET THE ARTS ADMINISTRATOR

Valley City Native, Nick Lee, was hired by the Bridges Arts Council this spring as their arts administrator. Lee is a 2012 graduate from Valley City High School and a 2016 graduate of Valley City State University. Additionally, he serves as the Head Speech and Student Congress coach at Valley City High School. He has worked heavily with the arts in the Valley City area and continues to be passionate about bringing arts and cultural experiences to as many people as possible within his hometown. Lee has been a member of the



Spencer Dobson (Comedian) during the Music In The Park Concert Series

## Contact Us

### **Bridges Arts Council**

PO Box 238

Valley City, ND 58072

[info@bridgesarts.org](mailto:info@bridgesarts.org)

[www.bridgesarts.org](http://www.bridgesarts.org)

Communication Speech and Theater Association of North Dakota and the National Speech and Debate Association for nearly 10 years serving on many panels and forums.

The Bridges Arts Council is an organization with a long history of supporting both arts and artists in the Valley City/Barnes County area, although over the years the name and focus has changed. The current Bridges Arts Council evolved from the Fine Arts Club established in the 1950's, which changed to the Second Crossing Art Gallery in 1977. In 1997, the art gallery space was lost, and the organization became the Council it is today, with board representatives comprised of area artists and art organizations dedicated to promoting the arts and humanities in Valley City and Barnes County. The Bridges Arts Council was officially established in 2001.

This is a new part-time position that will help with fulfilling the mission of the Bridges Arts Council to provide advocacy for the arts and cultural organizations in Valley City and neighboring communities. The arts administrator is responsible for basic bookkeeping, supporting the Bridges Arts Council Board of Directors in organizing exhibitions and performances, helping market the activities of the Bridges Arts Council, and facilitating administration of the VCSU Community School of the Arts. For more information on the Bridges Arts Council please take a look at their website [www.bridgesarts.org](http://www.bridgesarts.org). The Bridges Arts Council hopes to increase their presence in the local communities with a renewed sense of purpose and drive. They have secured a gallery space in the Old Strauss Mall Building located at 200 Central Avenue North and plan to start holding art exhibitions and classes in that space once COVID-19 restrictions allow for it. If there is an event that you would like to see in our community or have any questions about upcoming events you can reach out to

Nick Lee, Arts Administrator, by email [administrator@bridgesarts.org](mailto:administrator@bridgesarts.org).

## MUSIC IN THE PARK 2020

The Bridges Arts Council once again partnered with the Valley City Parks and Recreation Department to bring the popular Music In the Park Concert/Event Series to Valley City in June-August. This year there was some changes made at the start of the season in June to ensure the safety of performers and patrons. The format was changed to "drive-in" style for the beginning of the season. It was transitioned to the normal venue at the City Park bandshell and safety measures were strongly encouraged (including mask-wearing and social distancing). The events were well attended and featured musicians, comedians, and even a dance performer. The Bridges Arts Council would like to give a special thanks to Diane Sommerfeld, Bridges Arts Council Board Member and VCPR employee, for all of her work to make this event an annual success. We would like to also thank all of our performers, sponsors, and patrons for making this event possible in the most trying of years. If you are interested in next year's Music in the Park, please reach out to Diane Sommerfeld at [vcpr@vcpr.com](mailto:vcpr@vcpr.com)

## FEATURED ARTS/FEATURED ARTISTS

If you would like to be featured as part of our featured artists column please reach out to the Arts Council by email at [info@bridgesarts.org](mailto:info@bridgesarts.org). We are seeking to help local artists promote their work in the local area and are actively seeking the best strategies to do so.