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Governor appoints BraveHeart to South Dakota Arts Council

PIERRE, S.D. — Gov. Kristi Noem announced her selection of artist Keith BraveHeart to serve on the South Dakota Arts Council.

BraveHeart is a multimedia artist working primarily in painting, film, and community engagement. He is an active artist and advocate for contemporary Native art. His current interests and commitments include expansion efforts for community-based arts initiatives in South Dakota, as well as throughout the Northern Plains region. BraveHeart’s artistic vision supports and presents cultural signification as foundation for art, culture, and community. He is also an educator of fine art and works with diverse students throughout the state, currently holding the position of art instructor for Oglala Lakota College, where he continues encouragement of art as a critical component of life.

“Keith brings a necessary and thoughtful perspective to the South Dakota Arts Council. His expertise as a visual artist, educator, community builder, and a Tribal citizen lends a vital voice to the Council’s work. Keith has an extensive list of awards and recognitions for both his artwork and his leadership in community initiatives throughout South Dakota and the Great Plains region,” said Gov. **Noem**. “Keith’s career sets a great example of how art is a vehicle for change and growth in our communities, and we look forward to working with him through our state arts agency.”

BraveHeart grew up in the Pine Ridge Reservation, in the community of Pejuta Haka “Medicine Root” – known as Kyle. He is a citizen of the Tetonwan (Lakota) Nation of the Oceti Sakowin. He attended the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M., and received his Master of Fine Arts from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

The South Dakota Arts Council is a state agency providing grants and services to artists, arts organizations, schools, and other nonprofit organizations in South Dakota with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of South Dakota. The Council is organized under the Department of Tourism.

The South Dakota Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism and the South Dakota Arts Council. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen.