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Rural Arts and Culture Summit Will Offer Diverse Programming for Rural Leaders

Summary: The 2013 Rural Arts and Culture Summit will focus on rural development and art.

(April 25, 2013)-The Center for Small Towns (CST) and Springboard for the Arts are pleased to be co-hosting the 2013 Rural Arts and Culture (RAC) Summit, “Leveraging Arts and Culture to Build Thriving Communities,” June 5-6 on the Morris campus. The summit will guide its attendees in how to best mobilize arts and culture to create and sustain vitality in rural areas.

The summit is intended for individual artists, arts and culture organizations, and leaders in the community and economic development industry. Participants will come from a variety of areas, including North Carolina, Missouri, North and South Dakota, and Wisconsin. CST and Springboard for the Arts hope attendees leave the RAC Summit with a wealth of new ideas to pursue in their home communities as well as the connections and resources to make those ideas a reality.

Early registration for the summit is open until Tuesday, April 30. The registration fee is \$100 for two days and \$70 for one day. After April 30, registration will be \$125 for two days and \$90 for one day. These costs include attendance to the conference as well as breakfast and lunch both days. Scholarship funds are available through Minnesota regional arts councils and CST. Additional scholarship information is available [online](#) or by phone at 320-589-6451.

To register, visit racsummit.org, call 218-998-4037, or email racsummit2013@gmail.com. Additional information on the Rural Arts and Culture Summit is available on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Springboard for the Arts is an economic and community development organization for artists and by artists. Their work is about building stronger communities, neighborhoods, and economies, and believing that artists are an important leverage point in that work. Springboard for the Arts’ mission is to cultivate vibrant communities by connecting artists with the skills, information, and services they need to make a living and a life.

2013 Rural Arts and Culture Summit Schedule of Events

Tuesday

Evening reception for guests arriving early

Wednesday

Keynote speaker John Davis, noted arts and rural development leader who has put Lanesboro and New York Mills, Minnesota, on the map as top 100 small arts towns in the United States

Breakout sessions—Get Real: Real Art, Real Economic Development, Network Weaving, Collaborations to Engage Community, Sense of Place and Rural Identity, Creative Living: Connecting Art with Health, Environment and Agriculture, and Stronger Artists, Stronger Communities

Hands-on workshops and demonstrations featuring west central Minnesota artists

Keynote speaker June Holley, author of *The Network Weaving Handbook* known for training organizations and individuals to self-organize and create healthier networks

Evening garden party with local food, featuring award-winning bluegrass musician Mark Kreitzer at the University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center Horticulture Gardens

Thursday

Keynote speaker Michael Strand, potter and head of the North Dakota State University Art Department

Breakout session panels, presentations, and demonstrations

Conference conclusion: celebration and “idea harvest,” bringing all attendees together to share new ideas, action plans, and information from the summit and beyond

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.