

North Dakota Museum of Art

(Grand Forks, ND)

Emptying Out of the Plains

Total Award: \$100,000 over 1 year

To support *Emptying Out of the Plains*, a multi-year project that will use art to examine the agricultural crisis gripping the Northern Plains and its impact upon rural life. The family farm is rapidly disappearing and small towns are fading away. The Great Plains is undergoing the greatest outward migration since the Great Depression. Whole ways of life soon will be gone forever. Out of this change will come new ways of living on the Northern Plains, new solutions to cultural life, new methods of farming and ranching and a new visual landscape as miles and miles of shelter claims (trees planted over the last hundred year to protect the soil from wind erosion) are removed to make way for new agricultural practice. The museum will commission new works of music, video, writing and visual arts; use existing work and new work to engage the public in conversation; support the creation of a video installation concerning movement and loss; support the photo documentation of the changing physical landscape as well as the impact of migration on small towns; support a documentary film about the removal of "shelter claims;" and initiate an oral history project that results in a book.

Arts and Culture Program: *Objective I, Strategy 1*