

SD Now Has An Artist Laureate

Lamphere
Lauded With
Designation
By Governor

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The South Dakota Arts Council received its wish as Gov. Dennis Daugaard agreed to name a state artist laureate.

He chose Dale Lamphere, a sculptor from Sturgis, whose work appears in the Capitol rotunda and other spots on the capital complex in Pierre.



Lamphere is currently working on a sculpture for the I-90 rest stop overlooking the Missouri River at Chamberlain. The appointment took effect April 2 and runs through July 1, 2019.

Daugaard's action first came to public light Monday morning. The Legislative Research Council Register noted his executive order issued last week.

That prompted a question about it from at least one news reporter.

Daugaard's office subsequently issued a news release Monday afternoon.

South Dakota has an official position of poet laureate in state law, but there isn't one for artist laureate.

State officials are pointing to the precedent that at possibly one or more points in time, Oscar Howe was artist laureate.

There are written references to 1954 and 1960.

However, there also was a reference to Howe's designation in 1954 as "artist laureate of the Middle Border" — a historical name for the band of land across southern South Dakota and northern Nebraska — while Howe attended Dakota Wesleyan University and taught art at the Mitchell campus.

Howe was born May 13, 1915, on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation. He died Oct. 7, 1983.

He became one of South Dakota's best-known painters and was famous nationally for his style of portraying American Indian themes and subjects.

"The South Dakota Arts Council suggested it to the governor as a way to promote the arts," said Tony



Dale Lamphere's "Waters" is shown in its permanent home at Yankton's Riverside Park just south of the baseball stadium and overlooking the Missouri River. On Monday, Lamphere, a Sturgis sculptor, was named South Dakota's artist laureate by Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Venhuizen, the governor's chief of staff. "I believe the idea was prompted by the one-hundredth anniversary of Oscar Howe's birth."

Meanwhile, the post of poet laureate awaits the governor's selection. The position had been held by David Evans of Brookings since 2002 when he succeeded Audra Visser, who had served from 1974 to 2001.

Evans announced on Sept. 27, 2014, his decision to retire from the post. The Legislature subsequently approved a law, signed by the governor, during the 2015 session. It limits the poet laureate to a four-year term that begins on July 1 after a governor's election.

The law, which takes effect July 1, says the poet laureate can't serve more than one consecutive term but allows for a partial term is the person starts by serving the remainder of a predecessor's term.

The law also designates that all poets laureate shall carry the additional title of emeritus following their terms.

History Of Artist Laureate Seems Murky

PIERRE — Michael Pangburn tried to clear up some of the background Monday about the common belief that Oscar Howe was South Dakota artist laureate.

Pangburn is director of the South Dakota Arts Council. He provided the following answers to some questions Monday:

"As to Howe's Artist Laureate designation — Oscar Howe, Artist (I have a copy if you'd like to see it.) was published in 1974 and the copyright was revised in 2004.

"In the introduction, written by John Day, director of University Galleries at USD, I found the following statement: 'He [Howe] was named Artist Laureate of the state of South Dakota and was an honoree on the popular television program, This is Your Life.' [No date is referenced in John's introduction.]

"On the South Dakota Hall of Fame website, Howe's biography states, 'In 1960 he was named Artist Laureate of South and he was featured on the popular television pro-

gram, This is Your Life.' I assume that the Howe family approved the language on the Hall of Fame website, but that is strictly my assumption.

"There is nothing in the official records of the South Dakota Arts Council confirming that date, however, as the Arts Council was not created until 1966.

"At the suggestion of a group of South Dakota artists, the Arts Council proposed the creation of an Artist Laureate position, similar to that of the State Poet Laureate.

"The Arts Council provided a list of South Dakota artists we thought would be qualified to be named to this distinguished position. Dale's name was among those on the list.

"Frankly, I can't answer your question regarding why no one has been named Artist Laureate since Oscar Howe's death. While many states have poet laureates, the position of artist laureate is more rare.

"My guess is that it was just an oversight, and that

most people weren't aware that there had ever been an Artist Laureate until they started researching Howe's life on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

"It seemed like a fitting way to honor one of South Dakota's most noted artists as well as honor one of the current crop of equally talented artists who could serve as a spokesperson for the arts in South Dakota."

By Bob Mercer

Wage

From Page 1

and isn't tied to future cost-of-living increases.

Securing the signatures would block the youth minimum wage law from going into effect until after the 2016 election. Exempting youth workers from the new minimum wage was one of the most vigorously debated bills of the 2015 legislative session, and Gov. Dennis Daugaard has said he carefully considered the plan before he ultimately signed it into law on March 20. If activists are unsuccessful in getting the required signatures by the end of June, the law would take effect on July 1.

Daugaard has said that the campaign for the \$8.50 wage hike focused on adult workers who support a family, not on young workers.

But Tornberg said she believes South Dakota residents knew what they were voting for.

"The minimum wage is certainly about equity. It's about fairness ... and it's about respecting the will of the voters," Tornberg said.

Republican Sen. David Novstrup, who sponsored the youth minimum wage bill, said it's "about making sure that young people have an opportunity for their first job."

"That's a tool that they can use," Novstrup said of sending the law to voters for their review. "I am, I guess, disappointed by it, but it is part of the process. The debate continues."

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