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## **Remove your shoes to enjoy new exhibit at Cultural Heritage Center**

PIERRE, SD -- You must remove your shoes in order to get the full effect of the newest exhibit at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

Now through March 26, the museum will host "Walk Softly," a special exhibit of a piece of artwork produced in collaboration among Tiospa Zina Tribal School art students, their teacher Amy Woolston and visiting artist Angela Behrends from Dakota State University in Madison.

"Walk Softly" is an 11-foot diameter circle made of canvas and felt that will sit directly on the floor in the lobby of the Cultural Heritage Center. Students were asked to create any part of nature they could see or imagine. They cut shapes from colorful felt and glued them together to make animals, birds, bugs, plants, water, stars, clouds, rain, lightning and everything else visitors will see displayed. The felt was then glued to the canvas circle, along with a felt fringe to finish the edge.

"We are excited to bring this work to the museum," said museum director Jay Smith. "We like to promote youth involvement in the cultural arts, and this is a good way to demonstrate and exhibit some of the terrific work being done in South Dakota schools."

One of the main points of the piece, Smith said, is for visitors to recognize that there is nowhere you walk IN this circle without walking ON something. Their only request is that you remove your shoes to preserve the artwork and prevent damage. There is no charge to view, or to walk on, the art. Museum hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CST Monday-Saturday and 1-4:30 p.m. on Sundays.

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### ***About the South Dakota State Historical Society***

*The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Education. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit [www.history.sd.gov](http://www.history.sd.gov) for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.*