



Building a More Trustworthy World

CONCORDIA COLLEGE | LORENTZSEN CENTER FOR FAITH AND WORK

Dear Friends of the Lorentzsen Center,

We invite you to join us on **Friday, Dec. 5, from noon to 1:15 p.m. CST** in **Barry Auditorium** (with Zoom available) for a lunchtime conversation with **Joe Burgum**, executive director of **Folkways** and one of the region's most visionary community-builders.

[Reserve your spot >](#)

Why Joe Burgum? Why this conversation now?

Joe Burgum leads **Folkways**, a nonprofit grounded in the belief that shared experiences — markets, public spaces, cultural gatherings — strengthen community belonging and reduce isolation. Folkways aims for a region with the **highest levels of community participation** and the **lowest rates of loneliness and suicide in the nation**, pursuing this mission through placemaking, arts activation, small-business development, and programming that brings people together across differences.

More: Read about the [Folkways mission](#).

Joe's work includes initiatives that have reshaped the Fargo-Moorhead landscape — from the Night Bazaar, Red River Market, and Christkindlmarkt, to innovative public-space activations such as Broadway Square — each designed to create connection, spark creativity, and cultivate a sense of place.

Event Details

Date: Friday, Dec. 5, 2025

Time: Noon to 1:15 p.m. CST

Location: Barry Auditorium, Concordia College

Virtual Option: Live Zoom link available upon registration

[RSVP >](#)

Why does this belong at the Lorentzsen Center?

At the Lorentzsen Center for Faith & Work, we seek to understand how people and institutions build a more trustworthy world — one where dignity, belonging, and purpose shape our shared life. Joe Burgum's work sits squarely within that mission. His leadership offers a compelling vision for how communities can become more connected, humane, and hopeful.

We hope you'll join us for this meaningful conversation.

Warmly,
Michael J. Chan, Ph.D.
VP for Mission and Inclusion

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