

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL



Iowa Arts Council Turns 50

In 1967, a gallon of gas cost 33 cents, the average car cost less than \$3,000, and the Iowa Arts Council officially became a state agency.

Just two years before, in the White House Rose Garden, President Lyndon Johnson signed the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, declaring: "Art is a nation's most precious heritage. For it is in our works of art that we reveal ourselves, and to others, the inner vision which guides us as a nation. And where there is no vision, the people perish."

Learn how Gov. Harold Hughes and the Iowa Legislature [took action at the state level](#) to create the Iowa Arts Council and join us as we celebrate a half-century of public support for the arts in Iowa.



Meet the Artist: River Breitbach

[River Breitbach](#) has been playing music nearly all his life. Born in Dubuque, he started taking violin lessons at age two and has never looked back. Today, at 28, the multi-instrumentalist and songwriter is a new Iowa Arts Council Fellow who blends elements of folk, pop, rock, blues and hip-hop in performances across Iowa and the Midwest.



Steeple Square Apartments

Congratulations to the hundreds of community members and officials who celebrated the opening of the [Francis Apartments on the Steeple Square campus](#) last month. The project offers permanent housing for graduates of the Opening Doors program and market-rate apartments for the general public. It is also part of the Steeple Square initiative in Dubuque, which was named an Iowa Great Place in 2016.



Ag Art Exhibit Awards

Find out who won this year's Celebration of Iowa: [Agriculture Art Award](#) by joining us at 9 a.m. on Aug. 17 in the Pioneer Livestock Pavilion at the Iowa State Fair. The [winning entries were selected](#) by President Craig Hill of Iowa Farm Bureau, Secretary Bill Northey of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and Director Mary Cownie of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.



Old-Fashioned Fair Photos

Dubuque artists Tim Olson and Tony Moline strolled through the Iowa State Fair last year with historic 100-year-old camera equipment, posing and photographing over 250 groups of people. This year, their work will be on display in the Patty and Jim Cownie Cultural Center at the fair. Their [150-foot-long Iowa State Fair Panorama](#) exhibit includes photos of almost 800 participants.



Share Your Story

Here in the Iowa Arts Council office, we recently dusted off a scrapbook to learn more about the agency's early years. But when it comes right down to it, this 50th anniversary is all about you. How has your arts career or organization grown with Arts Council support? Have you ever received an Arts Council grant? Or maybe you've seen a program that received Arts Council support? [Share your memory](#) about the Arts Council and how it helped you create or experience art here in Iowa. We can't wait to share your stories on social media.



Not To Brag...

But Iowa artists, arts organizations and communities are doing incredible things in every corner of the state. The [latest video in our series](#) about Iowa's brag-worthy art takes us to the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra, the Coon Rapids Sculpture Park, a spray-painted rendering of the Sistine Chapel and a giant peacock mural created by kids in Waterloo. Check out the full video and share your brags on social media using #NotToBrag and #IowaArts.



Join our team

Are you interested in a career in museums, public art or arts administration? The Art in State Buildings internship with the Iowa Arts Council is a great way to build your resume and gain real-world experience. The Iowa Arts Council is now accepting applications for the fall semester. [View the available opportunity](#) and apply by Aug. 21.



Director Cownie announces departure

Mary Cownie announced on Monday that she will be leaving her position as director of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs effective August 17. Appointed in 2011, Mary has overseen the administrative functions and programs of the department, including the Iowa Arts Council, State Historical Society of Iowa and Produce Iowa. Please join us in thanking Mary for her invaluable leadership and in wishing her well on her new adventures.

Upcoming Deadlines

Calls for Artists

August 15: [Woodbine Downtown Outdoor Sculpture Gallery](#)
August 18: [Walk on Art Street](#)
August 18: [Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art Juried Exhibit](#)
Aug. 18: [Artist in Residence at Ballet Des Moines](#)
Aug. 30: [Exhibit Proposals for the Garage](#)
August 31: [The Matador Review](#)
Sept. 15: [Elkader Byway Public Art Project](#)
Sept. 15: [Craft Forms](#)
Sept. 15: [City of Waukon Public Art](#)

Arts & Culture Jobs

Aug. 11: [Cultural Programs Supervisor, Hearst Center](#)
Aug. 31: [Executive Director, PACE](#)
Sept. 1: [Executive Director, Quad City Symphony Orchestra](#)

Arts Funding

Sept. 19: [Catalyzing Creative Aging](#)

Iowa Arts Council Events

Aug. 12: [American Gothic Visitor Center 10th Anniversary Celebration](#)
Aug. 17: [Agriculture Art Exhibition Awards Ceremony](#)
Now-August 31: [State Law Library Art Exhibit: Restless Tenants by Naomi Friend](#)
Now-October 30: [Art at the Café: Agriculture Art Exhibition](#)

Iowa Arts Council Grantee Events

Now through August 31: [Iowa Bird of Mouth](#)