



Emergency grants for Iowa artists and arts organizations top \$1 million

Good news: The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs recently awarded [\\$1.1 million in CARES Act grants](#) to [173 of Iowa's arts, history and culture nonprofits in 51 counties](#) to help them rebound from the coronavirus pandemic. It won't fix everything, but it's a big start.

The new round of grants, added to an earlier round in April, brings the department's sum of emergency grants to more than \$1.3 million, thanks to funding from the Iowa Legislature, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities and Arts Midwest – with *unanimous* support from Iowa's congressional delegation. Please help thank Iowa's elected officials in Washington for standing up for arts and culture during these challenging times.

More good news: Yesterday the [National Endowment for the Arts awarded an additional \\$900,000](#) in non-emergency Art Works and Our Town grants to six Iowa organizations, including the Des Moines Art Center, National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, Red Cedar Chamber Music, and University of Iowa. The list also includes Polk County and Bravo Greater Des Moines, which received funding for "Shoreline Signals," a public art installation led by Group Creatives that is designed to visually connect central Iowa's waterways and educate people about water safety and quality.

Working for Racial Justice

As America's march toward racial justice gathers momentum, especially in these last few weeks since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the Iowa Arts Council continues to advocate for equity, diversity and inclusion in communities across the state.

There are lots of ways to learn more, including an online guide to "[Talking About Race](#)," which the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture designed specifically for parents and teachers, as well an ongoing series about Iowa artists of color on the [Iowa Arts Council's](#)



[Facebook page](#). If you'd like to suggest artists to feature, please let us know.

Saturday: Civil Rights Landmark Reopens with Virtual Reopening Celebration

The 2014 Iowa Artist Fellow [Jordan Weber](#) created a new mural (left) for the recently rehabilitated Edna Griffin Building in downtown Des Moines, the site of a successful sit-in for racial integration in 1948. Tune in online at 4 p.m. Saturday to join the building's [virtual reopening ceremony](#), featuring performances by the local [Pyramid Theatre Company](#).



Folk Arts in the Classroom

Fine arts and social studies teachers from 12 Iowa schools are literally weaving traditional art techniques into their lesson plans, thanks to a new Iowa Arts Council program called [Folk Arts in the Classroom](#). This month's professional development workshops have shifted to an online format, with at-home art kits, video sessions with folk artists and more. After the participating teachers complete their training, each of their schools will receive funding for art supplies, field trips or in-class visits from folk artists.

Pictured: Luther College Nordic Studies students exploring the art of kroting at the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum.



Welcome Back, Dr. Smith!

The Iowa Arts Council is delighted to announce that spring intern Montana Smith has been hired to continue this summer to help with social media and various projects, including the [Iowa Arts Summit](#) on Aug. 7. She recently earned a doctorate in communication studies from Louisiana State University, where she focused on dance and experimental theater.



Show Off Your Community

Heads-up: June 15 is the deadline to apply for [Iowa Great Places](#) and [Iowa Cultural & Entertainment District](#) designation and re-designations. Both of these programs are great ways to showcase what your community currently offers and how you can shape its future.

Pictured: Iowa Great Places leaders from Madison County



Poetry Out Loud

The 2020-2021 school year is still a way off, but teachers can already register their schools for [Poetry Out Loud](#). This standards-based program for high schoolers encourages them to study poetry, practice public speaking and develop an appreciation for the world's diverse literary heritage. (The cash prizes for state and national winners aren't too bad, either.)

Pictured: Teaching artist Yvette Zarod Hermann

Iowa Arts Summit: Session Spotlight



Nancy Gebhart, a doctoral candidate at Iowa State University, will lead a session at this summer's [Iowa Arts Summit](#) called "De-Centering Whiteness Through Inclusive Arts Practice." It's designed to help Iowa artists and arts-organization leaders use their work to advocate for social justice.

Scheduled for Aug. 7, the first-ever virtual Iowa Arts Summit offers a mix of presentations, panel discussions and collaborative online art projects. [Registration](#) is \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the event, and [scholarships](#) are available for artists and art students. After registering, join the [Iowa Arts Summit Connections](#) Facebook group to start networking with your peers across the state.

Pictured: An illustration by Jane Mount of books on race and social justice.

Coming Up

Note that some of the following events may be canceled or postponed. Please check online for updates.

State Grant Opportunities

June 15: [Iowa Cultural & Entertainment District](#) designation

June 15: [Iowa Great Places](#) designation & re-designation

Non-State Grant Opportunities

June 12: [CARES Act Grants, Institute of Museum & Library Services](#)

June 12: [CARES Act Grants, Native American/Native Hawaiian Museums & Libraries](#)

June 15: [Rauschenberg Medical Emergency Grants](#)

June 30: [JustFilms](#)

July 9: [NEA Grants for Arts Projects](#)

Aug. 1: [American-Scandinavian Foundation Grants](#)

Calls for Artists

June 12: [Art Therapy in the Time of Covid-19](#)
June 12: [Encapsulated Motions for Art Week Des Moines](#)
June 12: [Governor's Arts Awards Design](#)
June 13: [New Bohemia Arts Festival](#)
June 15: [Digital Iowa Exhibited XXXV](#)
June 15: [Necro Magazine](#)
June 16: [Limited Space for Art Week Des Moines](#)
June 17: [Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site](#)
June 18: [Council Bluffs Mural](#)
June 18: [Historic Dubuque Mural](#)
June 19: [DSM Emerald City](#)
June 27: [Square Foot Exhibit](#)
June 30: [100 Bucks for 100 Words](#)
June 30: [Art United -- Together We Stand](#)
June 30: [Brookings Public Art Commission](#)
June 30: [Create! Magazine](#)
June 30: [Strange Figurations](#)
July 1: [Outrage to Change Donations](#)
July 4: [Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art](#)
July 5: [2020 River to River Juried Exhibition](#)
July 10: [Deeds Not Words Art Show](#)
July 24: [Shutter Priority](#)
July 31: [Holiday Thieves Market 2020](#)
July 31: [Inspiration from Isolation](#)
July 31: [Global Meltdown](#)
Aug. 1: [FAKfulness Art Magazine](#)
Aug. 31: [A Show of Heads](#)

Art & Culture Jobs

July 31: [Mount Ayr Community Schools Art Teacher](#)

Iowa Arts Council Events

Now-June 30: [Iowa Women's Art Exhibition: "Illusive" by Renee Meyer Ernst](#)
Aug. 7: [Iowa Arts Summit 2020](#)

Professional Development

June 17: [Dance/USA Annual Conference](#)
June 26-28: [AFTA Annual Convention and Public Art & Civic Design Conference](#)
July 1: [Photography Education Award](#)
July 20: [2020 American Alliance for Theatre & Education Conference](#)
Sept. 24-26: [SEADAE 2020 National Conference](#)
Oct. 26: [World Alliance for Arts Education Virtual Seminar](#)
Nov. 18: [2020 National Guild for Community Arts Education Conference](#)

Student Opportunities

June 15-19: [Young Writers' Workshop](#)
June 20: [#Enough: Plays to End Gun Violence](#)
July 8: [Junior Curator Day Camp](#)
Oct. 7: [Embracing Our Differences](#)
Dec. 31: [#CreateBecauseWeCare](#)