

# IOWA ARTS COUNCIL



## Five Takeaways from Tuesday's Virtual Town Hall

When the going gets tough, the tough get together. At least, that's true here in Iowa, where this week's town-hall meeting with the **Iowa Arts Council** and the **National Endowment for the Arts** was the best-attended of all the NEA's state meetings so far. More than 200 Iowa artists and nonprofit leaders logged in to learn about resources to help our creative sector bounce back from the pandemic.

Here are five key takeaways from the discussion:

- Iowa Arts Council and NEA staff are eager to answer questions and provide feedback about your grant proposals. The earlier you ask for help, the more we can help.
- The NEA's goal is to provide funding to every state and all 435 congressional districts, *including yours*. Don't assume your application won't be competitive because your organization or community is too big or too small.
- Reviewing grants is one of the best ways to sharpen your skills as a grant writer. Both the Iowa Arts Council and the NEA offer opportunities to [volunteer as a grant panelist](#).
- Whenever you apply for a grant, always request feedback from the panel so you can improve your chances for the next time.
- The NEA offers more than grants. Initiatives like Poetry Out Loud, Creative Forces and the Blue Star Museums – to name a few – help students, veterans and organizations participate together in the arts.

WATCH THE TOWN-HALL RECORDING

## Wrapping up the Iowa Arts Summit

If you participated in the recent virtual summit, please take a moment to fill out the [online evaluation survey](#). It will help us plan the next one, whether it's online, in person or a mix of both.

TAKE THE SURVEY



## Programming During a Pandemic

In a session during the recent Iowa Arts Summit, several Iowa arts groups shared some of the [innovative work-arounds](#) they've devised to offer live performances and classes even in these unusual times, including virtual dance lessons in Council Bluffs, drive-in theater in Des Moines, rooftop concerts in Dubuque and some outside-the-box online concerts in Sioux City (with a guest soloist from New York).

*Photo: American Midwest Ballet in Council Bluffs*

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## Iowa Nonprofit Recovery Fund

Federal CARES Act funds are available to help Iowa nonprofits that have been economically affected by Covid-19. The [Iowa Nonprofit Recovery Fund](#), administered by Volunteer Iowa and the Iowa Economic Development Authority, provides short-term relief for organizations with annual revenues that exceed \$25,000 and are facing economic challenges during the pandemic. Applications will be accepted as long as funds remain.



## Emergency Grants Yield Results

Just a few weeks into the pandemic, 156 Iowa artists each received a \$1,000 emergency grant from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs to help make ends meet until they found other forms of revenue or public assistance. The artists could use the grants to cover basic expenses, including food and rent, but some spun their dollars into [inspiring projects](#) in small towns and big cities across the state.

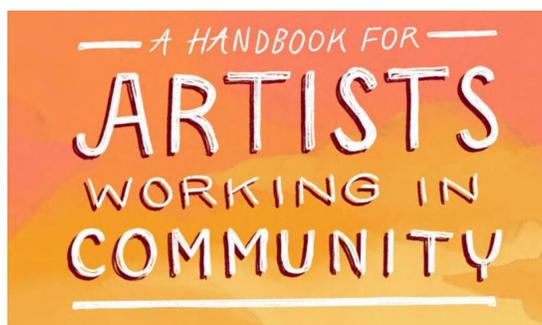
*Photo: Susan & Vicki Woodford of Shenandoah*

[TAKE A LOOK](#)



## U.S. Regional Arts Resilience Fund

Thanks to an anonymous donor, Arts Midwest is expanding the [U.S. Regional Arts Resilience Fund](#) to smaller organizations in the Midwest. Grants of \$10,000 to \$50,000 will be awarded to organizations with (pre-Covid) budgets between \$50,000-\$249,999, with a special focus on arts and cultural organizations in rural communities and those that serve or are led by indigenous people and people of color. Anyone may nominate an arts organization online by Aug. 28.



## Research & Resources in the Arts

The nonprofit Springboard for the Arts has developed a "[Handbook for Artists Working in Community](#)." The free online resource is a compilation by and for artists, full of insights and practical tips to help individual artists deepen their work in and with diverse communities, whoever and wherever they may be.

[DOWNLOAD THE HANDBOOK](#)



## Spread the Word: #ArtsCreateHope

Sometimes, the arts offer light when things look dark. If you've found some hope in a song, a book, a movie, a photograph – or any other form of art – take a moment to help Americans for the Arts spread the word. Post a note on social media with the hashtag [#ArtsCreateHope](#), and be sure to tag [@IowaArtsCouncil](#) and [@americans4arts](#).

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# Coming Up

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

### Grant Opportunities

- Aug. 21: [The Lewis Prize for Music Accelerator Award](#)
- Aug. 25: [Innovate Grant Summer Cycle](#)
- Aug. 28: [U.S. Regional Arts Resilience Fund](#)
- Sept. 9: [Cerf+ COVID-19 Relief Grant](#)
- Oct. 1: [USArtists International Support Amid Covid-19](#)
- Ongoing: [Iowa Nonprofit Recovery Fund](#)

### Calls for Artists

- Aug. 28: [Monmouth Museum](#)
- Aug. 31: [A Show of Heads](#)
- Aug. 31: [Create! Magazine Issue #23](#)
- Aug. 31: [Momentum: Works of Growth and Recovery](#)
- Aug. 31: [Writing a New World](#)
- Sept. 12: [Iowa Dance Festival 2020](#)
- Sept. 13: [CANVAS International Art Fair](#)
- Sept. 15: [2020 Storm Drain Mural Project](#)
- Sept. 30: [Materials: Hard & Soft International Contemporary Craft Competition & Exhibition](#)
- Oct. 7: [Embracing Our Differences](#)
- Oct. 11: [Imagine Museum](#)
- Dec. 1: [The Painting Center](#)
- Dec. 31: ["How's the weather here there?"](#)

### Professional Development

- Aug. 25: [Arts Midwest & Western Arts Alliance 2020 Conference Call for Proposals](#)
- Sept. 9-17: [Arts Education Partnership Virtual Conference](#)
- Sept. 12: [Iowa Dance Festival 2020](#)

Sept. 24-26: [SEADAE 2020 National Conference](#)  
Oct. 6-9: [Arts Midwest & Western Arts Alliance 2020 Conference](#)  
Oct. 26: [World Alliance for Arts Education Virtual Seminar](#)  
Nov. 18-21: [2020 National Guild for Community Arts Education Conference](#)

### **Student Opportunities**

Oct. 7: [Embracing Our Differences](#)  
Dec. 31: [#CreateBecauseWeCare](#)