

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL PRODUCE IOWA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

CREATING CULTURALLY **VIBRANT** COMMUNITIES



Greetings,

We received some welcome news last week: three of Iowa's leading cultural nonprofits received substantial grants from the U.S. Regional Arts Resilience Fund. ArtForce Iowa in Des Moines, the Englert Theatre in Iowa City and the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum each received about \$50,000 to help them weather the Covid-19 pandemic.

The national grant program is funded by the Mellon Foundation and regionally administered by Arts Midwest, which [distributed a total of \\$1.5 million to 30 organizations](#) in nine Midwestern states – chosen from a stack of more than 500 nominations.



Clearly, other Iowa organizations are struggling, too. But here at the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, we're heartened by this recent boost for three Iowa nonprofits and determined to help others follow their lead. We'll continue to spread the word about other resources and opportunities as they emerge.

As always, please let us know how you're doing and how we can help.

Take care,

Chris Kramer

Chris Kramer
Director, Iowa Department of Cultural
Affairs



Derecho Recovery Resources

Private nonprofits and local governments in all the Iowa counties within the federally designated disaster area may be eligible for funding through the Iowa Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Please check the eligibility requirements (on pages 45-46 of the [FEMA guide](#)) and read the complete guidelines.

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Employer Innovation Fund

Grants up to \$100,000 are available to employers, community organizations and nonprofits for training, books and additional support – even childcare and transportation – for Iowans who are preparing for various high-demand careers that have been affected or eliminated by the pandemic. Iowa Workforce Development is offering the new opportunity through the Future Ready Iowa program and will accept applications through Sept. 16.



Emergency Funds for Historical Resources

If a historic building, museum or collection in your area was damaged by last month's derecho storm, it may be eligible for an emergency grant through the Historical Resource Development Program, which is overseen by the State Historical Society of Iowa. Limited funds for all kinds of historical resources are available throughout the year, on a first-come, first-served basis.

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Three Big Wins

Sometimes, a little inspiration goes a long way. Here are three bright spots on our radar.

Iowa musicians and music venues are getting creative in how they bring live performances to their audiences. Iowa Public Radio caught up with musicians Jason Walsmith of The Nadas (pictured, right) and Dan Tedesco, and Octopus College Hill in Cedar Falls and the Englert Theatre in Iowa City to see how they are adjusting to the new "normal" caused by Covid-19.



Credit: Emma Walsmith

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The Ames Town & Gown Chamber Music Association announced its lineup for the fall concert series. Thanks to their help, you can tune in to free virtual performances with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (Sept. 22, Oct. 13, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1) plus three nights with the New England Conservatory's Merz Trio to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birthday (Dec. 16-18).

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The city of Johnston is commissioning an interactive sculpture for its new town center. The winning design came from Reinaldo Correa, who teaches architecture at Iowa State University and hired some help: three students who had lost their summer internships because of the pandemic. The sculpture, called "Ripples" (aka "Big Fish"), is inspired by a largemouth bass and will feature kinetic



scales and changing colored lights after its installation, set for April 2021.

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