



Greetings,

It's been six weeks since the derecho storm blasted across Iowa. Many of you have made tremendous efforts to clean up the damage. Thank you for your neighborly efforts.

More work remains and for those in the counties with the emergency designation, there are several resources that can help.

Derecho-specific:

- The deadline for submitting a [Request for Public Assistance](#) through the Federal Emergency Management Agency is **30 days** after the President's disaster declaration relative to your location. For Iowa counties included in the Aug. 17 disaster declaration, the deadline to submit a RPA was Sept. 16. Counties included in the Sept. 10 disaster declaration date have until Oct. 9 to apply.
- Small Business Administration [disaster loans](#).
- If you work at a history museum or own a listed historic property, it may be eligible for an emergency grant from the Historical Resource Development Program. [Learn more](#).
- The Heritage Emergency National Task Force, co-sponsored by FEMA and the Smithsonian Institution, can help with assessing cultural heritage assets put at risk by the storm. Contact info@iowaculture.gov to get connected.

New pandemic recovery resources:

The National Independent Venues Association is launching an [Emergency Relief Fund](#) in concert with the Giving Back Fund to support vulnerable live music venues. Applications will be accepted beginning Sept. 24 and will be open for the initial application period until Oct. 11.



Picture: Chainsaw sculptor Clint Henik of Mount Vernon. (KGAN-TV)

And, of course, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the staff here at the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. We're here to help.

Take care,

Chris Kramer

Chris Kramer
Director, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

Tomorrow Plan Speaker: James Chung

Big-data guru James Chung returns to the Tomorrow Plan Speaker Series – tomorrow, in fact – to discuss how communities can use data to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, rebuild the economy and reckon with racial injustice. He'll focus on greater Des Moines but many of his insights apply to cities across the state. Chung is the president of Reach Advisors, a Boston-based research firm that specializes in predictive analytics. **The free online event starts at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23.**

REGISTER ONLINE



Photo: Des Moines Playhouse

#RedAlertRestart

Earlier this month, performing arts groups across North America lit their venues with red lights for a #RedAlertRestart to support the performing arts. The campaign raised awareness for an industry that continues to struggle during the pandemic. According to [nationwide research](#):

- Live events employ 12 million people.
- Live events contribute more than \$1 trillion to the U.S. economy.
- 95 percent of live events have been canceled.
- 96 percent of companies have cut staff and/or wages.
- 77 percent of workers in the live-event industry have lost 100 percent of their income.

Also, in case you missed it, please read the Des Moines Register's [recent editorial](#) that urges Iowans to donate to performing arts organizations, including Iowa State University's Stephens Auditorium.

Creative Work Proposal

Americans for the Arts has launched a national campaign and a series of policy ideas designed to engage creative workers in the national recovery: "To Rebuild and Reimagine the United States Post-Pandemic, We Must Put Creative Workers to Work."

The Creative Workforce Proposal offers a few simple steps you can take to spread the word:

- Endorse the proposal for yourself and/or your organization.
- Tell your fellow creative workers about the proposal.
- Spread the word on social media.
- Send a press release or write a letter to your local media.



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Three Big Wins

There are lots of bright spots even amid this year's challenges. Please tell us about your successes, big or small, and we'll spread the word.



Iowa woodworkers are transforming derecho-damaged trees into works of art. "How can we take this huge loss of all these trees and make it into something beautiful?" Michael Reed of Waterloo told the Des Moines Register.

[LEARN MORE](#)

The Living Proof Exhibit, a Quad Cities nonprofit that uses the arts to help people affected by cancer, has shifted many of its programs online. They launched

the Birdhouse Project this summer to provide free, handmade birdhouses to cancer patients who can't venture out and about during the pandemic.

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Photo: Jessica Gallagher/Quad-City Times



The Des Moines Metro Opera's virtual summer festival attracted more than 250,000 viewers from as far as India, Great Britain and New Zealand. The company broadcast nine recent productions with help from Iowa PBS and Iowa Public Radio, and pumped out 31 additional videos online.

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