



October is **National Arts and Humanities Month**, an annual celebration of the ways arts and culture help create more vibrant, equitable and resilient communities



#ArtsCreateHope



The year's celebration of National Arts and Humanities Month has taken on special significance. As Americans for the Arts, our nation's leading nonprofit voice for the arts, asks:

"Can you remember a time when we've needed the arts more? During the pandemic, we've turned to the arts for support. We listen to music, read books, and make chalk drawings with our kids. We dance in our living rooms, watch movies, share Instagram photos and create posters to carry in protest. In many ways, the arts are working overtime in every household and community to do what they do best: Create hope, spark joy and connect us when we're physically apart."

As the arts and artists work harder than ever to keep us connected and to create meaning and joy in our lives, we also need to be there to support

National Arts & Humanities Month is a perfect time to show your support for the arts and artists. So how can you help? Here are a few ideas:

- Find unique gifts from Iowa shops, artists and craftspeople on [Shoplowa.com](https://www.shoplowa.com).
- Support Iowa musicians through platforms like Bandcamp or by hiring a local musician to perform online.
- Commission a local artist to create an original piece of art or purchase a work from a gallery.
- Become a member or make a donation to your favorite local arts organizations.
- Take an online class in creative writing, dance, painting, or whatever strikes your fancy.

them. Right now, many artists and creatives, live music venues, and arts organizations are still working to recover and could use your support.

At a time when our industry continues to amaze and inspire us, National Arts & Humanities Month is a perfect moment to show your support for the arts and artists.

[LEARN MORE](#)

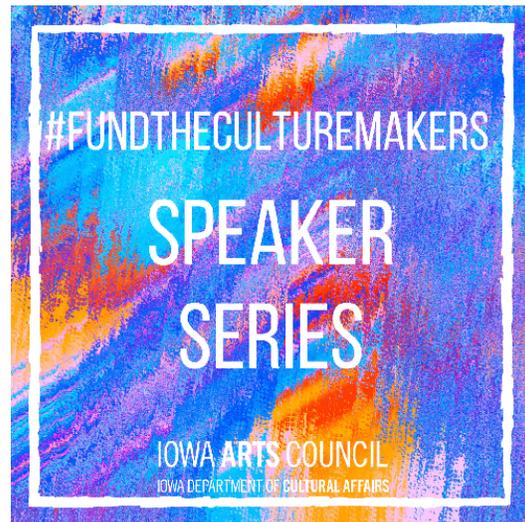
#FundTheCultureMakers

Please join us on Instagram @iowaartscouncil for live (and lively!) discussions with artists, musicians and filmmakers from across the state. Hosted by our very own Montana Smith, the #FundTheCultureMakers series focuses on ways lowans can support our creative workforce. You can watch previous interviews or catch a new one coming right up:

Oct. 27: Noon
Filmmaker Fred Ebong of Cedar Rapids

- Buy tickets or a subscription. Many performing arts organizations are offering virtual performances and announcing plans for their 2021 seasons.

- Speak up for the arts in your community with [resources](#) from Americans for the Arts, the Iowa Cultural Coalition and others.



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Iowa Artist Fellow Spotlight: Olivia Valentine



Tune in to a live virtual [performance on Nov. 5](#) to see how Iowa Artist Fellow Olivia Valentine's loom here in Iowa interacts virtually with the

Ada Fender Student Songwriter



Ada Fender, a junior at Roosevelt High School in Des Moines, is the only lowan and one of 12 winners nationwide in a songwriting contest

electronic music streaming from composer Paula Matthusen's studio in Connecticut. The creative pair showed off their collaborative project, "between systems and grounds," at the virtual Art Lounge during the Iowa Arts Summit this summer, and we're eager to see what they've been up to during the past few months.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OLIVIA](#)

organized by the American Theatre Wing and the National Endowment for the Arts. She'll work with a coaching team to polish her song, "Great Grim Green," before Broadway musicians record it in New York. It also will be published in a songbook and distributed worldwide through music-streaming platforms. Congratulations, Ada!

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Poetry Out Loud Webinar Series

Oct. 23 - Nov. 19
Thursdays at 4 p.m.

The 2020-2021 Poetry Out Loud competition has moved to a virtual format with regional competitions, providing more avenues for students to participate at the local level.

Already registered? We're here to help you prepare! This webinar series, led by Yvette Zaród Hermann, will help students prepare for the competition by covering topics like choosing your poems, a deeper dive into the evaluation criteria, and memorization tips. Each webinar will be recorded and posted to our website. Register [here](#)

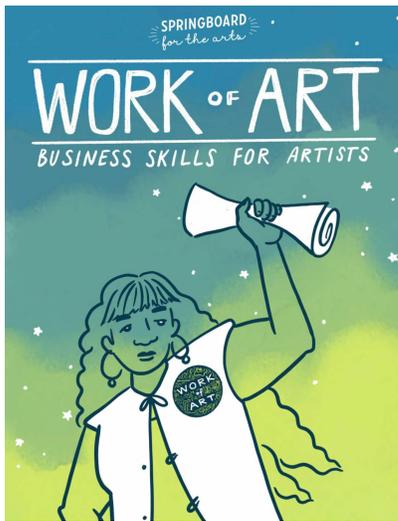
Pictured: 2020 participant Makayla Wallerich, left, of Iowa City and 2020 State Champion Amya Thornton of Cedar Falls



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Work of Art

A popular professional-development series called "The Work of Art: Business Skills for Artists" is now available for free online. The course from

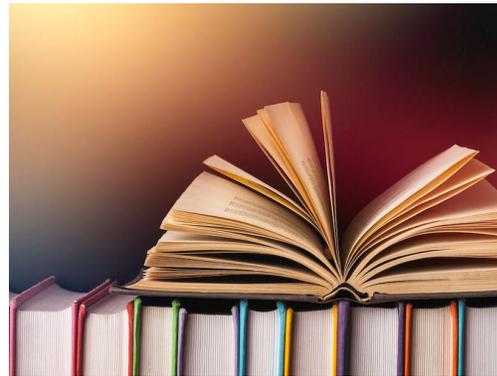


Springboard for the Arts has helped artists, arts organizations, colleges and universities across the country and is now available as a digital toolkit, full of practical, artist-led business insights.

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The Big Read

Arts Midwest is now accepting applications for the 2021-2022 Big Read, a national book club program organized by the National Endowment for the Arts. Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for in-person, virtual and socially distanced reading programs that bring communities together to share the joy of reading. A webinar for applicants is set for Nov. 12; applications are due Jan. 27.



[REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR](#)



[SIGN UP FOR THE SUMMIT](#)

ArtPlace Virtual Summit

The nonprofit ArtPlace America wraps up a decade of creative-placemaking work in communities across the country with a virtual summit from 1 to 5 p.m. each day next week, Oct. 26-30. Part of the group's research explores the intersection of arts, culture and immigration and is available online in a report called "Bridging Divides, Creating Community: Arts, Culture and Immigration."

MediaMasters Classes

Produce Iowa, the state office of film and media production, is offering a pair of online workshops for Iowa filmmakers. Both are led by industry pros.

Oct. 24: “Working with Talent,” with casting director Joni Tackette and Maureen O’Brien, the executive director of the SAG-AFTRA Missouri Valley Local

Nov. 7: “Producing Like a Pro,” with producer Nicolaas Bertelsen



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ROAD TRIP!

Quick, before all the leaves disappear: Download the free Iowa Culture app and explore two new self-guided tours along the Grant Wood Scenic Byway in eastern Iowa and the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway in western Iowa. Both tours feature art, history and cultural landmarks, specially curated from more than 3,500 sites the app lists across the entire state.

COMING UP

Grants

Open: [Virtual Arts Experience Grant](#)

Open: [Coronavirus Relief Fund Registered Apprenticeship Expansion Grant Opportunities](#)

Open: [2020 Derecho Recovery](#)

Oct. 24: [MediaMasters Class: Working With Talent](#)

Oct. 26: [World Alliance for Arts Education Virtual Seminar](#)

Oct. 26: [Rauschenberg Medical Emergency Grants for Artists](#)