

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL PRODUCE IOWA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL



Virtual Arts Experience Grants

The Iowa Arts Council is pleased to announce the first round of Virtual Arts Experience Grants, funded in part through appropriations from the National Endowment for the Arts. In all, more than \$54,000 was awarded to seven nonprofit organizations and one school, including:

- **Grundy Center Elementary School**, which will hire artist Dale Santoiemma of Waverly to virtually teach cartooning skills to 265 students from kindergarten to fourth grade.
- **City Voices** in Des Moines, which is teaming up with Des Moines Public Schools to launch an online course to help students and aspiring actors build skills that will aid them in auditioning for college and pursuing careers in musical theater.
- **Eastern Iowa Arts Academy** in Cedar Rapids, which will present virtual art classes for high school students in the autism program at Washington High School.

[SEE THE FULL LIST OF RECIPIENTS](#)

The Iowa Arts Council launched the Virtual Arts Experience Grants program earlier this year in lieu of its regular grants for field trips and other in-school arts programs. It's designed to help arts organizations and educators develop creative ways to reach students and adults in an online learning environment.

Virtual Arts Experience Grant recipients will also have access to a related professional-development opportunity, commissioned by the Iowa Arts Council and developed by Yen Verhoeven of the Qi Learning Research Group. This multi-part training, which is also supported by Bravo Greater Des Moines, will help educators create innovative online arts resources and navigate multiple modes of instruction.



Join us Friday, Dec. 11, for a virtual showcase of Iowa art & culture!

The state's premier cultural celebration, presented by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, includes a virtual tour of Haitian art at the Waterloo Center for the Arts and a mix of musical performances at iconic venues such as the American Gothic House and the Surf Ballroom. You won't want to miss this only-in-Iowa event!

[LEARN MORE & BUY TICKETS](#)

Fortepan Photo Album

An Iowa Arts Council grantee has relaunched an online photo archive called [Fortepan Iowa](#), with a slick new design that lets users search whatever keywords they'd like ("train," "paint," "Oskaloosa," etc.) The project's organizers received an Iowa Arts Council grant last year to create [several temporary, photo-based murals](#) and are now recruiting volunteers to help tag the online photos to improve the website's search function.



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Iowa Arts Summit Revisited



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Last summer's Iowa Arts Summit offered a bumper crop of new ideas and practical tips, so we're reviving the [session recordings](#) and making them available again. Topics range from strategic planning and programming during a pandemic to advocacy, cultural equity, community resilience and more. Feel free to watch any or all of the presentations, or pass along a link to your friends and colleagues.

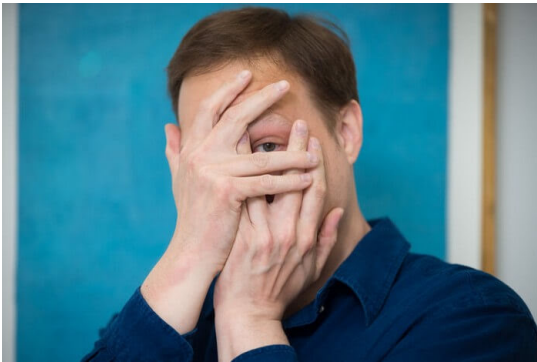
Telling the story of the Iowa Writers' Workshop

The Iowa Writers' Workshop is famous for producing stories. But the workshop itself will star in a new story that a team of Iowa City filmmakers is producing with help from a Greenlight Grant from Produce Iowa and the Iowa Arts Council. The filmmakers are focusing their lens on a dozen students beginning this fall until they graduate in 2022. Read all about it and see a video on the [Iowa Arts Council blog](#).



[READ THE BLOG & SEE THE VIDEO](#)

Iowa Artist Fellow Spotlight: Garth Greenwell



[READ THE BLOG](#)

The writer Garth Greenwell tries to see things from the outside in. Even in Iowa City, where he moved in 2013, he often speaks in Spanish, which he picked up after learning Portuguese, Bulgarian, German, Italian, French and Latin.

“I love being abroad,” he says. “I love living in another language. To me, being an artist requires a sense of foreignness. Even if you’re writing about the place you were born, you have to find a way to see it as a stranger.”

Learn more about the 2020 Iowa Artist Fellow in our latest post on the [Iowa Arts Council blog](#).



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[FREE WEBINARS](#)

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud is an arts education program that encourages students in grades 9-12 to study great poetry and compete in a recitation competition. Students can register for the virtual competition through their schools or as individuals through Jan. 27. Meantime, they can prepare for the competition by [tuning into a pair of free webinars](#) on Nov. 12 or 19.

Arts Across America

The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts recently launched a new live performance series, called Arts Across America, to showcase artists from coast to coast.

To support the cause, the Iowa Arts Council was proud to nominate Cedar Rapids artist, storyteller and 2016 Iowa Artist Fellow Akwi Nji to represent Iowa. Her performance, [The Hook: \(Art\) Born from the Battleground](#), which originally aired on Nov. 2, is “an electric and electrifying hour of music, spoken word, and dance born from the heartland where art and activism unite to create beauty.”

Arts Across America is available on [Facebook Live](#), YouTube and the Kennedy Center’s website. Performances air five days a week at 3 p.m. (Central Time).

The Kennedy Center



APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Strengthening Communities Grants

If your organization focuses on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, check out the Strengthening Communities Grant to defray costs associated with the renovation and maintenance of facility infrastructure. Grants of \$10,000 to \$100,000 are available to nonprofits in communities with less than 28,000 population. Apply by Nov. 20.

Research & Resources in the Arts:WomXn Owning it

Amid the pandemic and all of its ramifications, an online series called "[Womxn Owning It](#)" offers an array of programs to support businesses and projects during this time of uncertainty. This comprehensive resource and online event guide will continue to be updated, so check back often.



LEARN MORE

Resilient Arts Organizations

Americans for the Arts' [Resilient Arts Organizations: Adapting to New Realities series](#) will address essential topics for arts and culture organizations to consider as they respond to



current needs and re-imagine the future. [Register for the series](#) to gain access to all upcoming and on-demand sessions.

REGISTER