

Monday Morning Eye-Opener January 25, 2021

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MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER



FROM THE STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA

January 25, 2021

Two Grant Opportunities



Paint Iowa Beautiful Grants

Through a partnership with Diamond Vogel Paint of Orange City, Iowa groups can receive paint for community enhancement projects and parks. From the **Keep Iowa Beautiful** website: *“Keeping up the appearance of our buildings, facilities, and parks is an important component of viable communities. Well-maintained and painted buildings reflect pride in our communities. The program provides free paint to a wide variety of public service projects throughout Iowa.*

Kevin Techau, Executive Director of Keep Iowa Beautiful, writes: *“The **Paint Iowa Beautiful** program helps us increase our assistance to neighborhoods and communities by improving the attractiveness and beauty of where we live. These projects definitely improve the beauty of Iowa, its countryside and its communities.”*

In the 17-year partnership with **Keep Iowa Beautiful**, Diamond Vogel has awarded over 11,165 gallons of paint to 1,000 community projects in Iowa. Arthur, Chariton, and Gowrie public libraries were successful **Paint Iowa Beautiful** grant winners in 2020. Who's up for beautification projects in 2021?! **The application deadline is February 15, 2021.** Click below for the online grant application

Apply For Paint Iowa Beautiful Grant

Rural Libraries and Social Wellbeing Project



The second grant opportunity comes from the **Rural Libraries and Social Wellbeing Project.**

This grant provides micro-grants of \$1,000.00. \$500.00 is awarded as an honorarium for the lead staff person on the project, the remaining \$500.00 is awarded to the library itself.

The intention is to better understand how social wellbeing affects communities and how libraries can play a part. From the agency website: *“Public libraries located in rural locations have unique capabilities to generate social well-being outcomes in their communities. Through conversations with over 200 people in eight towns across the U.S, we heard rural residents describe the “good life” in their own terms and the ways in which their local public libraries enriched that life...”*

Project Expectations

- Grantees work through five weeks of social wellbeing resources with a personal rural librarian guide; after five weeks, they complete two monthly reflections and one Zoom interview.
- **Applications are due February 13, 2021** and notifications will be received by February 15, 2021. Participants receive their honorarium during the first week of March and libraries receive their seed money during the last week of March.
- Participants work through wellbeing resources February 22--March 29, meeting with their project facilitator. Participants submit written reflections about their work in April and May 2021, giving a one-hour individual interview via Zoom in June, 2021.

Who Can Apply

- Paid employee of a public library with a budget less than \$150,000 and service population less than 7,500
- Lead staff person must be able to personally receive an honorarium of \$500 for time spent learning to use the resources, meeting with facilitator, and answering written and video recorded questions

- Lead staffer must be able to work with their library board to receive and spend \$500 on social wellbeing-related activities
- Lead staffer must want to achieve long-lasting wellbeing improvements throughout the community through library service

Apply For Rural Libraries & Social Wellbeing Grant

GREATNESS'
STEMS
FROM IOWANS

GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

dedicated to building a strong STEM education foundation for all Iowans

New Round of STEM Scale-Up Programs

This news is thanks to Southwest District Consultant Misty Gray. The **2021-2022 STEM Scale-Up Program** educator application is open, with **applications accepted now through March 5th**. Eligible applicants include STEM programs that serve PreK-12 students in or out of school with capacity to deliver professional development and training materials in Iowa.

About STEM Scale-Up

Through legislative appropriation, the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council is able to offer exemplary STEM programs throughout the state. The STEM Scale-Up Program has demonstrated success in increasing student interest and achievement in STEM across all demographics. Through a rigorous review process, the STEM Council selected twelve programs to be offered on the [2021-22 STEM Scale-Up Program menu](#) to provide high-quality STEM education offerings to schools, afterschool programs, and other settings for grades pre-K through 12. These programs range from building robots and coding programs to conducting agricultural field experiences and learning about STEM careers.

Public Library Connections

It looks like all of the STEM Scale-Up Programs can be done outside of school buildings and school hours, which makes public library partners eligible to apply. Interested youth service librarians are encouraged to browse through the possible programs and apply for those that seem best suited to their communities. Several to choose from, here are just three options that connect with public library programming.

Storytime STEM-packs: Educational innovation designed to connect children's literature with STEM. Enables educators of young children to successfully incorporate age appropriate STEM concepts into children's programming. PreK-2 grades. In and Out of School

VEX IQ: A snap-together robotics system designed to encourage future engineers of all skill levels. Students compete in robot skills challenges to see how many points their robot can score. Students quickly gain life skills such as teamwork, perseverance, communication, collaboration, project management and critical thinking. 5-8 grades. In and Out of School

FIRST Lego League Explore: Teams of up to six students discover and learn about the topic, present their findings in the form of a team poster and LEGO model they design, build and program to move autonomously. They also explore core values, teamwork and STEM concepts such as computational thinking and engineering design. K-4 grades. In and Out of School

Click to learn more about the application process via an instructional webinar tomorrow **January 26th from 4:00-5:00PM**. Same button takes you to more information about the **2021-22 STEM Scale-Up Programs**.

[Watch STEM Scale-Up Webinar](#)

Next Big Ideas Book Discussion

[Wintering: The Power of Rest & Retreat in Difficult Times](#)

With this new calendar year comes a new slate of books to share in **Big Ideas Book Discussions**. The first discussion in the 2021 series happens on **February 19th** (9:30-11:00AM) when we take up the title [Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult](#)



Times (c2020) by Katherine May. In the heart of winter, and following an incredibly challenging year, Wintering is decidedly a “comfort” read, a book that NPR describes as “contemplative, hopeful, and consoling.”

A Booklist starred review said this: *“In Wintering, Katherine May offers much-needed solace and comfort and a reminder that seasons eventually turn.”* From Amazon: *“...shot through with lessons from literature, mythology, and the natural world, May’s story offers instruction on the transformative power of rest and retreat. Illumination emerges from many sources: solstice celebrations, C.S. Lewis and Sylvia Plath, swimming in icy waters and sailing arctic seas. May models an active*

acceptance of sadness, finds nourishment in deep retreat, and joy in the hushed beauty of winter...”

In **Big Ideas Book Discussions**, State Library staff facilitate discussions using books outside of library management, but with plenty of application to library management. Choosing books on leadership, civic engagement, presentation skills, etc. we connect those ideas with public library service. In addition to a great assortment of non-fiction titles, there are other spin-off benefits of **Big Ideas**:

- titles help with collection development for participating librarians
- titles are good choices for local book discussion groups
- this program provides the design and resources to facilitate these books in local discussions

We encourage participants to purchase books used in the **Big Ideas** series for your own collections. And join us for the next good read: [Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times](#)

[Register Today :-\)](#)

This Week ...



Iowa Library For The Blind Webinar

This Wednesday January 27 (1:00-2:00PM) comes the first in a series of programs in partnership with the Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled. This first webinar is an overview of agency services, including patron eligibility, programs, and resources for Iowans and Iowa libraries. **Click Registration Button Below ...**

PLOW Website Instruction

Also this **Wednesday January 27** (2:00-3:00PM) Marie Harms continues instructional sessions on using the new Concrete5 PLOW websites. **Click Registration Button Below ...**

The Boardroom 2021

The **Boardroom 2021** webinar series begins the new year by debuting the newly-revised Iowa Library Trustee's Handbook. It happens on **Thursday evening January 28th** (6:00-7:30PM) With the new handbook front-and-center, facilitators Nancy Medema and Bonnie McKewon will share chapter highlights. The third edition of The Iowa Library Trustee's Handbook c2021 will be posted on the State Library's website as a read-only Google Doc. Essentially, this reprises a similar webinar in October, but without the new publication in hand.

Since 2009, the State Library of Iowa has produced this reference book for public library boards. It has proven to be a reliable and authoritative resource, important reading for newly appointed trustees, equally useful for experienced members. There is no obligation to access the handbook prior to the webinar; attendees will have the opportunity for breakout room discussions.

***Attendance at this program helps satisfy Standard #8
"all members of the library board of trustees participate in a variety of
board development programs each year."***

[Register Inside IALearns](#)

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