

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL PRODUCE IOWA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

IOWA HISTORIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA



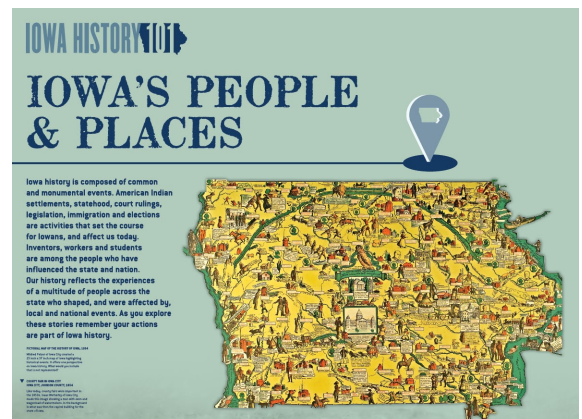
More than 360 students came from virtually everywhere across Iowa last week to compete online in this year's National History Day in Iowa state contest. For the second straight year, the academic enrichment program moved to an online format due to the Covid pandemic. **Sixty-three students representing 21 different schools took top honors during the state contest** and advanced to the national contest, where they will compete online in June for scholarships and prizes.

National History Day challenges students to research, develop and present papers, exhibits, documentaries, websites and performances about historical topics related to an annual theme. This year's theme is "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding." See the list of [Iowa's national qualifiers](#).

[SEE THE STATE CONTEST AWARDS CEREMONY](#)

Spanish and Braille Added to 'Iowa's People & Places' Exhibition

Thanks to the Iowa International Center and the Iowa Department for the Blind, the State Historical Museum of Iowa's new "[Iowa's People & Places](#)" exhibition has been translated into Spanish and transcribed into Braille, in addition to English. The exhibition is on display as part of the new [Days of Learning](#) initiative, an online showcase of Iowa art, history, film and culture curated by staff from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and other cultural and humanities organizations. It is presented as part of the



museum's year-long commemoration of Iowa's 175th Anniversary.

EXPLORE THE DAYS OF LEARNING COLLECTION

2021 Preserve Iowa Summit, Online June 3-5



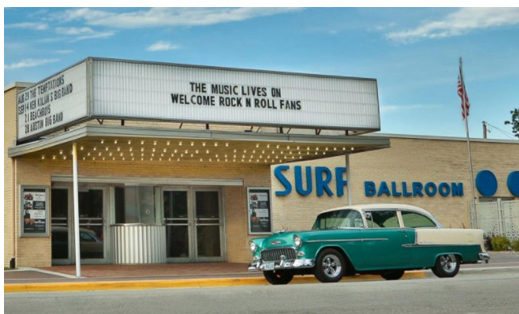
Learn new ways to **save Iowa's past for the future** when you sign up for the 2021 Preserve Iowa Summit. Designed for professionals and volunteers working in historic preservation, the summit offers presentations, workshops and virtual tours along with a keynote address, awards ceremony, breakout webinars and how-to sessions for **Local History Network** members and others.

[LEARN MORE](#)

The summit is presented by the State Historic Preservation Office and co-hosted by the city of Council Bluffs.

Explore Iowa History Online

Join the thousands of Iowans who have tuned in online for the **Iowa History 101** and **Iowa Stories** webinars during the past month. You can watch five new programs in the next few months or catch up on recordings of previous recordings from both popular series.



Iowa History 101

Iowa's Newest National Historic Landmark: The Surf Ballroom

May 13

Join Alexa McDowell as she discusses the multi-faceted history of the **Surf Ballroom**. Nationally recognized as the final performance venue



Iowa History 101

The State Historical Society of Iowa's Historic Sites

May 27

Join Michael Plummer, the State Historic Sites manager for the State Historical Society of Iowa, to **learn some stories from the sites** as well as a

of **Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson**, the Surf Ballroom illustrates the role of small venues in bringing both big-name and rising stars to towns across the Midwest.

REGISTER

few highlights visitors can discover when they see them in person.

REGISTER

Iowa History 101

Iowa's Borders: Evolution and Controversy June 10

Join Paul F. Anderson, professor emeritus at the Iowa State University College of Design, as he discusses **the evolution of Iowa's state borders**, a process that began long before Iowa joined the Union in 1846.

REGISTER



Iowa Stories

Iowa Women's Corrections June 24

In the nearly 170 years since the first woman arrived at Iowa's oldest penitentiary, in Fort Madison, women and juvenile females have been held in some of Iowa's most well-known facilities. Join Erica Spiller for this discussion about Iowa's prison history.

REGISTER



Iowa History 101

Iowa's County Fairs June 24

Join Leo Landis, the state curator for the State Historical Society of Iowa, as he discusses the history and heritage of Iowa's beloved county fairs.

REGISTER



Take a deep dive into Iowa history by joining **the new statewide Iowa History Book Club**, with quarterly online discussions led by guest scholars and Andrew Klumpp, the editor of **The Annals of Iowa**. The next discussion is set for 7 p.m. June 10, with a look at **“Equal Before the Law: How Iowa Led Americans to Marriage Equality”** by former Des Moines Register reporters Marc Hansen and Tom Witosky.

REGISTER IN ADVANCE

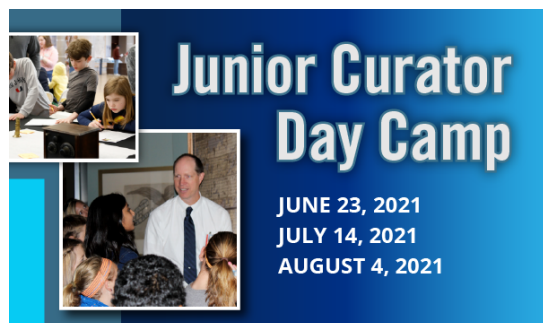
Youth & Family Programs

Do you have an aspiring curator or writer in the house? Well then, sign them up for Junior Curator Day Camp or the Young Writers' Workshop! Participants in these programs get to **explore the State Historical Museum of Iowa, examine historical artifacts, practice historical research and learn skills** they can apply to school and future careers.



Young Writers' Workshop is for students entering 7th-12th grades and offers a chance to learn about Iowa history with unique educational experiences. The workshop will take place **June 14-18**.

LEARN MORE



Junior Curator Day Camp is for students entering 4th-6th grades and gives them opportunities to learn about museums and the role of curators. The camps will be offered **June 23**, **July 14** or **Aug. 4**.

LEARN MORE

Ready for Your Close-Up?

As Iowa prepares to cap off its **175th year of statehood** on Dec. 28, the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs invites Iowans of all ages to **create and submit a self-portrait**, which will be featured as part of the anniversary.

Step 1: **Print the instruction sheet** with the portrait frame.

Step 2: Draw your self-portrait inside the frame. Cut it out.

Step 3: Write your first name, age and Iowa county of residence on the back.

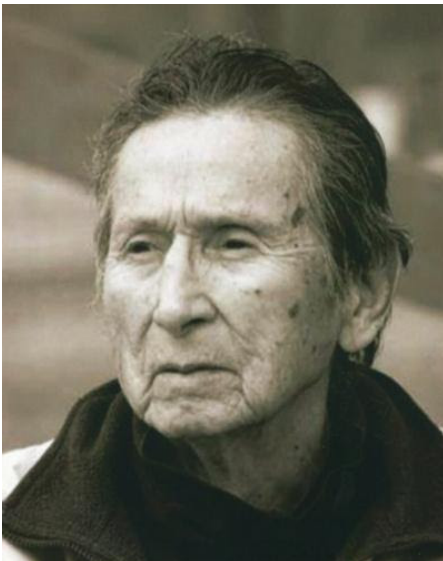
Step 4: Send your self-portrait in an envelope addressed to:

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
600 E. Locust St.
Des Moines, Iowa, 50319



[DOWNLOAD THE FRAME](#)

Don Wanatee, 1933-2021



[LEARN MORE](#)

The State Historical Society of Iowa joins countless Iowans in mourning the loss of Don Wanatee Sr., who passed away peacefully last month at his home on the Meskwaki Settlement in rural Tama.

A University of Iowa graduate, Don served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. **He was a member of the Meskwaki Tribal Council and served as executive director of the Meskwaki Tribe.** He was a passionate advocate for Native American people and issues, and his contributions to Iowa – far too many to list here – will be remembered for generations to come.

Career Opportunities in History

The State Historic Historical Society of Iowa is looking to fill several job opportunities in its Des Moines offices. Please follow the links below for more information.

~ The **Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer** manages the State Historic Preservation Office, including the federal Historic Preservation Fund Grant, and oversees the following core areas: National Register of Historic Places, Certified Local Government Program, Section 106 review and compliance, and state and federal historic preservation tax credit programs. [Learn more and apply.](#)

~ The **Historic Preservation Fellowship** provides experience in historic preservation compliance and projects. [Learn more and apply.](#)

~ The **GIS Fellowship** provides experience in historic preservation and various projects involving compliance-based geographic information system (GIS) entry and maintenance. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Sign Up for News and Information



The Annals of Iowa

Get cutting-edge research about Iowa history by [subscribing to The Annals of Iowa](#), our thought-provoking history journal that **examines the deeds, misdeeds and accomplishments of people from Iowa's past**. Published quarterly, the Annals offer compelling accounts that show you how their actions continue to be felt throughout Iowa today.

[SUBSCRIBE TO THE ANNALS OF IOWA](#)



History in the News

Keep up-to-date with the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs by signing up for our [newsletters](#) – a smorgasbord of information about history, arts, culture and film grants, programs and opportunities across the state. You may also enjoy [monthly updates from Goldie's Kids Club](#), an Iowa history program designed for children and families.

[SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTERS](#)

Programs & Events

May 13: [Iowa History 101: Iowa's Newest National Historic Landmark: The Surf Ballroom](#)

May 27: [Iowa History 101: The State Historical Society of Iowa's Historic Sites](#)

June 3-5: [2021 Preserve Iowa Summit](#)

June 10: [Iowa History 101: Iowa's Borders: Evolution and Controversy](#)

June 10: [Iowa History Book Club](#)

June 14-18: [Young Writers' Workshop](#)

June 23: [Junior Curator Day Camp](#)

June 24: [Iowa Stories: Iowa Women's Corrections](#)

June 24: : [Iowa History 101: Iowa's County Fairs](#)

July 14: [Junior Curator Day Camp](#)

Aug. 4: [Junior Curator Day Camp](#)

Please check our online calendar for more events and opportunities across the state.

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

[VISIT OUR CALENDAR](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)