

2021: The Year in Review

One of the privileges of working alongside my incredible colleagues at the Iowa Arts Council and the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs is being part of different conversations every day about the arts and culture across our state. Each conversation carries distinct possibilities and, often, similar challenges.

Through all of these discussions, our most basic responsibilities are to recognize compelling ideas and needs, to identify the right resources and to make connections that can help more Iowans access, experience and succeed in the arts. It's also our responsibility to listen.

We've been listening a lot this year as we've met regularly with Iowans, including our arts and cultural leaders, and gathered their input. If the watchword of 2020 was "resilience," to my mind, the word that best defines the arts in 2021 is "essential."

I've heard this word spoken, frequently and emphatically, in a host of recent discussions. The arts are *essential* because they're exactly what students and schools need to overcome the ongoing educational and social-emotional challenges of the pandemic. The arts – and artists – are *essential* because they help shape and reflect who we are, particularly in times of loss, uncertainty and recovery. The arts are *essential* because they connect us to one another, build thriving communities and grow Iowa's creative economy, which is outpacing those in many other states.

Thank you for the work you do every day to make the arts essential. We can't wait to help you build on that momentum in the new year.

Happy Holidays,



SPECIAL NOTE: Iowans are no strangers to disasters. Last week, a fire destroyed a historic part of [Malvern](#), an Iowa Great Place in southwestern Iowa, and a tornado heavily damaged the public library in [Rudd in Floyd County](#), home to multiple cultural organizations supported by the department. Find out how you can support Malvern, Rudd and [other parts of the state](#) that were affected by this month's rare storms.





Thank you to all who supported the **10th annual Celebrate Iowa Gala** through sponsorships, donations and ticket purchases. You helped raise **more than \$125,000** for State Historical Society of Iowa programs and exhibits offered throughout the state. If you were not able to attend but would like to make a donation, visit iowaculture.gov/gala or mail your check to: Iowa Historical Foundation, 600 E. Locust St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

[MAKE A DONATION](#)

[SEE THE GALA VIDEO](#)

Humanities Project Grant Awards Announced

A lecture and recital series that traces the **origins of various musical genres created by women**. An exhibition about the earliest **sketches and paintings of central and western Iowa** paired with contemporary photos of the same locations.

These are two of the [31 projects](#) that will receive a **Humanities Project Grant**. The statewide grant program supports public humanities projects and educational programs that encourage contemplation, spark conversation and invite communities to explore the human experience.

Funding for the new program comes from the **National Endowment for the Humanities**, which last year recognized the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs as its interim state humanities council partner in Iowa. The grants are administered by the Iowa Arts Council.



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Grantee Spotlight: Ballet Des Moines and CultureALL

This year, **Ballet Des Moines** and **CultureALL** updated its presentation of "The Nutcracker" to include a mix of cultural expressions of celebration, family and storytelling through dance. A total of four short videos for use with a classroom discussion guide allows students in grades 3-6 to investigate different cultures through the lens of artistry, storytelling and cultural identity that is passed down through generational celebration.

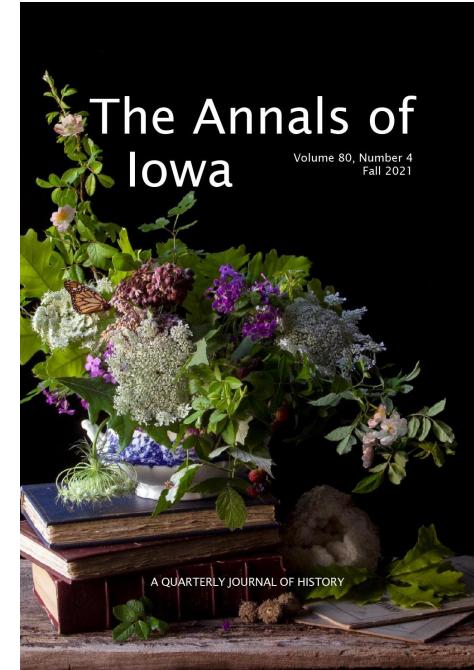
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Call for Art: The Annals of Iowa

Apply to have your artwork featured on the cover of **The Annals of Iowa**, a quarterly publication that examines the deeds, misdeeds, and accomplishments of our predecessors and shows how those actions fit into the larger mosaic of Iowa's history. The journal, established in 1863, is distributed quarterly to hundreds of subscribers throughout the United States and Canada, and its digital footprint is even larger, with over 1.6 million downloads from readers throughout the globe, including over 400,000 downloads in 2020.

The call for art is organized by the Iowa Arts Council and State Historical Society of Iowa, divisions of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

The **deadline to submit an application is 11:59 p.m. Jan. 17** for the spring, summer, and fall 2022 covers.



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Opportunities for Students

Register for Poetry Out Loud

This program encourages high school students to study great poetry and compete in a recitation competition at local, state and national levels. Students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage. The program was created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation in collaboration with state arts agencies in all 50 states and U.S. territories.

Here in Iowa, lead **teachers** will receive a **\$200 stipend** for implementing the program at their school. Teachers who would like their students to participate in the 2021-2022 program should [register online by Jan. 21](#).



[REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL](#)

Iowa Scholarship for the Arts

Iowa high school seniors with a proven artistic ability in dance, creative writing, music, theater, traditional arts or visual arts who plan to pursue a major in the arts at an accredited Iowa college or university next fall can apply for the Iowa Scholarship for the Arts. Each scholarship recipient **receives support for college tuition and related expenses** as a full-time undergraduate student. (*Pictured: "A Sign of Life" by Mikayla Lane.*)

Application deadline: April 1.



A SIGN OF LIFE, Mikayla Lane

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State, Regional & Federal Resources

COVID EIDL Funds Available

Funding is available through the Small Business Administration's COVID Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. **Application deadline:** Dec. 31.



U.S. Small Business
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Classics for Kids Foundation

The Classics for Kids Foundation invites applications for its matching grants for schools or nonprofit organizations that **incorporate string instruments, including guitars and ukuleles, in their K-12 music education programs**. Applicants must have nonprofit status and be based in the United States. **Application deadline:** Dec. 31.

