

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL



Here's to a half-century of supporting the arts in Iowa!

It sure didn't take long for the Iowa Arts Council to get rolling after Gov. Harold Hughes and the Iowa Legislature established it in 1967. By the end of the year, the new group had already lent its support to Iowans involved in ballet, theater, modern dance, opera, symphonic orchestras, art exhibits, architecture, motion pictures and even a weaving workshop. "There's about everything but modern jazz, and it's too bad we don't have some of that," council director Jack Olds told the Des Moines Register at the time.

So now, 50 years later, we're [celebrating the Iowa Arts Council's statewide support](#) for the arts – including modern jazz – with an array of golden anniversary programs and special events, culminating with the Celebrate Iowa Gala on Dec. 8 at the State Historical Museum of Iowa.

As it turns out, our Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs colleagues at the State Historical Society of Iowa are [celebrating its own anniversary](#) – 160 years – so we're planning to mark our milestones together. (Not to brag, but that's more than two centuries of Iowa arts and history!)



Share your story

Here in the Iowa Arts Council office, we recently dusted off a scrapbook to learn more about the agency's early years. But when it comes right down to it, this 50th anniversary is all about you.

How has your arts career or organization grown with Arts Council support? Have you ever received an Arts Council grant? Or maybe you've seen a program that received Arts Council support? To help us celebrate, please [send us a memory](#) about how the Arts Council has helped you create or experience art here in Iowa. We can't wait to share your stories on social media.



Not to brag...

But Iowa artists, arts organizations and communities are doing incredible things in every corner of the state. The latest video in our series about Iowa's brag-worthy art takes us to the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra, the Coon Rapids Sculpture Park, a spray-painted rendering of the Sistine Chapel and a giant peacock mural created by kids in Waterloo.

[Check out the full video](#) and share your brags on social media using #NotToBrag and #IowaArts.

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