

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL PRODUCE IOWA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

CREATING CULTURALLY **VIBRANT** COMMUNITIES



Happy Holidays,

This week marks another important turning point for 267 cultural organizations and 152 artists who received a share of the [\\$7 million in CARES Act relief funds](#) that Governor Kim Reynolds allocated for the Iowa Arts & Culture Recovery Program. It's the largest Covid-19 relief package to date for Iowa's strong but struggling arts and cultural sector – and just the latest bit of good news in a year of remarkable cooperation and creative resilience.

These grants help stabilize a vital part of Iowa's economy by helping our arts and cultural sector build a much-needed funding bridge for a stronger recovery, and we appreciate the governor's support of Iowa's cultural workforce.

None of this would have been possible without the dedicated staff here at the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs or the vision and cooperation of our cultural partners across the entire state. So before we head into 2021, I want to **thank you for supporting Iowa arts and culture** in so many ways over the past year.

I hope you find some time to recharge over the next few weeks and to prepare for a better, brighter new year.

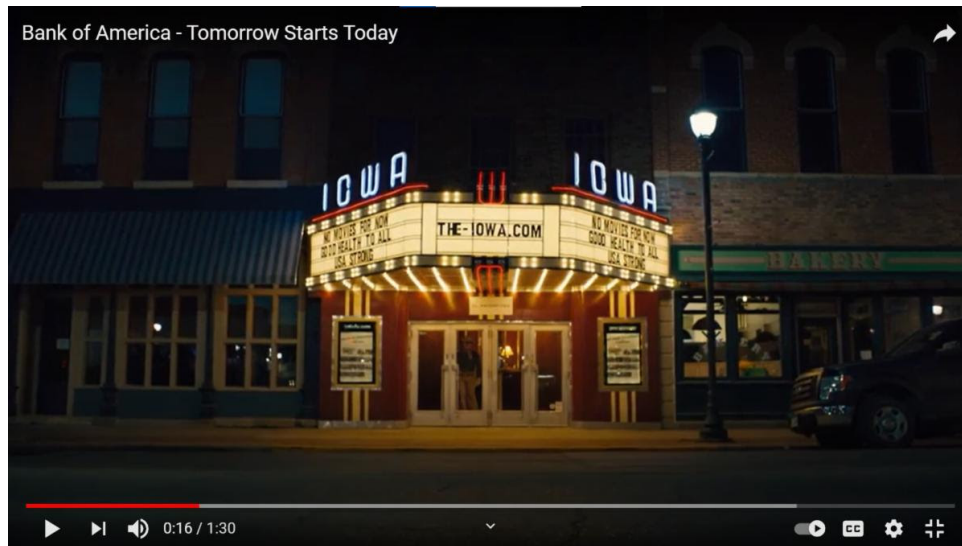
All the best,

Chris Kramer

Chris Kramer
Director
Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

SPRING

- Leaders from Iowa's museums, theaters, music venues and other cultural organizations joined a task force to share [emergency resources](#) and devise strategies to reopen safely.
- The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs distributed its first round of Covid-19 [relief grants](#) for Iowa artists and cultural organizations.
- An Iowa film crew shot [an inspiring commercial](#) for Bank of America in Winterset and Des Moines while most film productions on the coasts were shut down. The Oscar-winning actress Viola Davis provided the narration, a quiet rallying cry that "tomorrow starts today."



SUMMER

- The annual [Preserve Iowa Summit](#) and biennial [Iowa Arts Summit](#) moved online without missing a beat.
- The State Historical Museum of Iowa's education team expanded its array of free, [online resources to help history educators](#) meet the Iowa Core Standards for social studies and literacy. One recent highlight: The online collection of Primary Source Sets has racked up more than one million pageviews.

FALL

- Leaders from the Iowa Great Places and Iowa Cultural & Entertainment Districts convened online for the inaugural [Iowa Creative Places Exchange](#).
- The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs distributed [derecho relief grants](#) to help cultural organizations recover from the storm.
- Hundreds of Iowans tuned in to the [Celebrate Iowa Gala](#), which showcased Iowa and benefited the State Historical Society of Iowa.

