



Friday, December 10

6-7 p.m. VIP Reception

7-11 p.m. Celebrate Iowa Gala

Historic Scottish Rite Consistory

519 Park Street, Des Moines

Jorge Chávez Colorado, the Malvern artist whose work was featured in the latest edition of The Annals of Iowa, will paint an Iowa landscape during the Celebrate Iowa Gala on Dec. 10. Why not come and watch?

While you're there, you can listen to live performances from the [Awful Purdies](#), [Dirty Rotten Scoundrels](#) and [Phineas](#)

[Pope](#), and enjoy a smorgasbord of specialties from restaurants, bakeries, breweries and distilleries from across the state. Plus, you can see a gallery of other artwork from the Annals – including [Amee Ellis](#) of Des Moines and [Tonja Ihlenfeldt](#) of Mason City, both of whom discuss their work in a short new [video](#). Pictured: "Iowa Field," by Jorge Chávez Colorado



BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY

RE IMAGINE
RE ENGAGE
RE CONNECT

IOWA ARTS & CULTURE RETURN.



The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs recently launched a new campaign encouraging Iowans to "RE-IMAGINE, RE-ENGAGE & RECONNECT" with local arts and culture. And now, it's catching on, thanks to organizations like Pottawattamie Arts, Culture and Entertainment in Council Bluffs, which used a [toolkit](#) to make a graphic (above) to promote their programs and activities.

You can help spread the word, too, by using the [toolkit](#) to enhance your messages in print and online with images, samples posts, tweets, and templates for co-branded advertising, emails and press releases. (Pro tip: Tag us [@IowaArtsCouncil](#) so we can retweet and share your posts!)

[LEARN MORE](#)

[CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT](#)



Arts Midwest's Grow, Invest & Gather Fund Recipients

Congratulations to five Iowa arts organizations that recently received **Grow, Invest, Gather (GIG) Fund** grants to help grow their capacity and host touring artists for their communities in the spring of 2022. Arts Midwest awarded \$2,500 grants to 80 groups across the Midwest, including the [Ames City Auditorium](#), [ArtHaus](#) in Decorah (pictured), the [Heritage Center](#) at the University of Dubuque, [NewBo City Market](#) in Cedar Rapids, and [Public Space One](#) in Iowa City.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Honoring Mary Elizabeth Young Bear

The Iowa Arts Council salutes Mary Elizabeth Young Bear who was inducted into the **Iowa Women's Hall of Fame** during a [virtual ceremony](#) the Iowa Department of Human Rights hosted on Nov. 6.

Born with the **Meskwaki name of Bo na bi go**, Young Bear's contributions as an artist and art conservator, educator, cultural historian, civic leader, political activist, humanitarian, community leader and mentor have inspired, empowered and motivated those around her.

At the **Meskwaki Cultural Center and Museum**, she has helped curate the largest collection of Meskwaki cultural objects in the world, and her own artwork has



been recognized by museums and art organizations across the country.

[SEE THE CEREMONY](#)

Iowa Artist Fellow Spotlight: Brittany Brooke Crow



Brittany Brooke Crow fell in love with photography as soon as she set foot in the darkroom at Johnston High School. "Watching the print come to life in the development tray, it was just magical," she said. "I loved every step of the process."

Her process and tools are different now, at 30, but the [Iowa Artist Fellow](#) still uses photography to investigate the world and how she fits into it. She often turns the camera on herself to focus on her fears of intimacy and vulnerability.

[READ THE BLOG](#)

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud is an arts education program that encourages 9th-12th grade 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.

Lead teachers in Iowa will receive a \$200 stipend for their work in implementing the program at their schools. Teachers who'd like their students to participate in the 2021-2022 Poetry Out Loud program should [register online by Dec. 17](#).

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
AND POETRY FOUNDATION PRESENT



[REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL](#)



State, Regional & Federal Resources

Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative

The Iowa Economic Development Authority and the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative have announced four new funding opportunities for Iowa communities with a population under 20,000, including the following for creative communities:

- The **Rural Return Program** encourages innovative ideas and creative programming that can attract new residents.
- **Rural Innovation Grants** can be used for planning and project activities that develop local and cultural assets.

Application deadline: Dec. 1.



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Shakespeare in American Communities

Are you part of a theater company that would like to **produce a Shakespeare play or adaptation for young audiences?** Or are you a theater practitioner of a nonprofit organization illuminating Shakespeare for youths in the justice system?

Arts Midwest invites applications for the **Shakespeare in American Communities** program. Organizations can access up to **\$25,000** to support Shakespeare educational programs for young people.

The Intent to Apply is due Dec. 2. This is required and nonbinding.
Application deadline: Feb. 2, 2022.



[LEARN MORE](#)

Creative Forces Community Engagement Grant

The National Endowment for the Arts launched the Creative

Forces® program nearly a decade ago to **help service members and their families** cope with the unique experiences and challenges of serving in the military. The **Creative Forces Community Engagement Grant program** supports non-clinical arts engagement programs in healthcare, community or virtual settings. The grants will be awarded in two tiers, emerging and advanced.

Application deadline: Dec. 15.



arts.gov

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Future Ready Iowa Grant

The Future Ready Iowa Employer Innovation Fund is designed to **expand opportunities for Iowans to earn post-secondary credentials** that lead to high-demand jobs. It does this by encouraging Iowa employers, community leaders, and others to collaborate to support regional workforce talent development. **Application deadline: Dec. 17.**



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Spirit of the Season: Toys for Tots



The Iowa Arts Council invites you to donate to **Toys for Tots** this holiday season. Simply drop a new, unwrapped toy into the collection box at the State Historical Building of Iowa, 600 E. Locust Street in Des Moines, now through Dec. 9. The gifts will be given to area children, from newborns up to 14.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Coming Up

Grants

Open: [Coronavirus Relief Fund Registered Apprenticeship Expansion Grant Opportunities](#)

Dec. 2: [Intent to Apply: Shakespeare in American Communities](#)

Dec. 15: [Creative Forces Community Engagement Project Grants](#)

Calls for Artists

Nov. 30: [Arts Orange County/City of Newport Beach, CA](#)

Nov. 30: [Create! Magazine](#)

Dec. 3: [Polk City Community Visioning Committee](#)

Dec. 11: [Vestige Concept Gallery](#)

Jan. 14: [Omaha Summer Arts Festival](#)

Dec. 17: [Future Ready Iowa Grant](#)

Jan. 26: [NEA Big Read](#)

Jan. 28: [Music Education Partnership Grants, Chorus America](#)

Professional Opportunities

Dec. 31: [Art-Train](#)

Jan. 31: [Waldemar A. Schmidt Art Gallery, Wartburg College](#)

Student Opportunities

Dec. 1: [ICon: Iowa Conservatory Program](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES