



The Film Lounge: Season 6

The new season of “The Film Lounge” will make its **television premiere on Iowa PBS** at 9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 31, followed by the second episode at 9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7. Each episode will also stream in real time on [Facebook](#), where viewers can interact with contributing filmmakers and other film fans using the hashtag #TheFilmLounge.

An **in-person watch party** will be held at 12:30 p.m. Jan. 29 at FilmScene in Iowa City. The event will include screenings of both one-hour episodes from the new season.

Details about the event can be found at thefilmbrace.org, including information about safety protocols.

Now in its sixth season, “The Film Lounge” is an **annual showcase of short films created by Iowa filmmakers**. Through a compilation of shorts and interviews, each episode celebrates the work of Iowa filmmakers, acquaints viewers with the region’s vibrant film communities and explores the art of filmmaking. “The Film Lounge” is produced by **Iowa PBS** in partnership with the **Iowa Arts Council** and **Produce Iowa**, both divisions of the **Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs**.

Folk Arts Apprenticeship Pilot Program

Iowa non-profit organizations that have a demonstrated record of serving folk and traditional artists are invited to [apply for up to \\$5,000](#) in grant funds to develop an apprenticeship or residency program. The goal of the program is to help sustain artistic traditions and cultural heritage in Iowa by encouraging master artists and culture bearers to pass on their skills and knowledge to emerging or apprentice artists.



The **Folk Arts Apprentice Pilot Program** is made possible by support from the **National Endowment for the Arts**. Application deadline: Feb. 14.

Photo: Living History Farms Blacksmith Shop.

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

Great Places Designation Cycle Opens

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs has opened a new opportunity for cities and regions seeking to develop local cultural assets and to be designated or redesignated as an [Iowa Great Place](#). Once designated, communities may apply for **competitive grant funding**, participate in **professional development opportunities**, and receive **technical assistance** from the department along with additional funding consideration from other state agencies.

New Designation Application Deadline: May 2.

Re-Designation Application Deadline: Feb. 24.



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Iowa Great Places Informational Webinar

Jan. 19, 1 p.m.

Learn more about the program, eligibility and application requirements, and more.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

Strengthening Communities Grant Awards Announced



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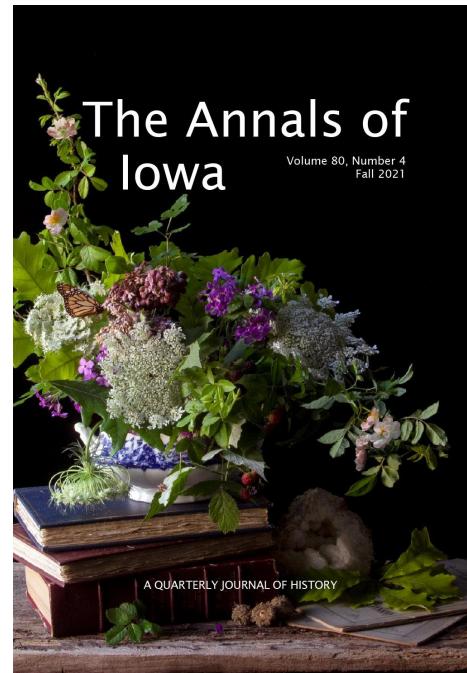
Last week, the department announced a total of \$250,000 in **Strengthening Communities** grants, which will benefit seven rural Iowa communities: **Clinton, Hampton, Keokuk, Lake City, Maquoketa, Red Oak and Stanton**. The grants are made possible by an appropriation from the Iowa Legislature, through the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund. Photo: Central School in Lake City.

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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Iowa Artist Fellow Spotlight: Francesca Soans

Last year, Waterloo filmmaker and University of Northern Iowa digital media faculty member **Francesca Soans** received recognition as an **Iowa Artist Fellow**, along with grant funding and



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professional development opportunities to support her career. Get to know more about Francesca and her storytelling here in Iowa through this [blog](#) feature.

The [next round of applications](#) for the Iowa Artist Fellowship program will open in early February.

Opportunities for Students

Poetry Out Loud Registration

[Poetry Out Loud](#) encourages high school students to study great works of 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. Poetry Out Loud is an initiative of the **National Endowment for the Arts**, with support from the **Poetry Foundation**.



Participating Iowa teachers will receive a **\$200 stipend** to support adopting the program at their school. Teachers should **register for the 2021-2022 Poetry Out Loud program online by Jan. 21**.

[APPLY NOW](#)

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. **Application deadline: April 1.**



(Image: "A Sign of Life" by Mikayla Lane.)



Maria Rosario Jackson, Ph.D., was [confirmed to serve](#) as the 13th chair of the **National Endowment for the Arts** in December.

As a nationally-recognized professor, researcher, board member, advisor, and arts administrator, “[Dr. Jackson] has a deep sense of, and abiding confidence in, the power of arts, culture, and design to inject creativity into public sector problem-solving. She will be a tireless champion for deploying all the NEA’s tools in service of advancing social equity and justice for all Americans,” said Rip Rapson, president and CEO of the **Kresge Foundation**, in the NEA’s announcement. Congratulations, Dr. Jackson!



National Endowment for the Arts Grant Awards

The National Endowment for the Arts has [announced the first round of recommended grants](#) for FY2022, with **1,498 awards totaling nearly \$33.2 million**. Grants for Arts Projects funding spans 15 artistic disciplines and reaches communities in every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The announcement includes **five grants totaling \$90,000 awarded to two individuals and three organizations in Iowa:**

LaTanya McQueen, **Cedar Rapids**, \$25,000
Orchestra Iowa Inc., **Cedar Rapids**, \$10,000
Melissa Fabos, **Iowa City**, \$25,000
FilmScene, **Iowa City**, \$20,000
North End Cultural Center, Inc., **Waterloo**, \$10,000

Grants for Arts Projects

The NEA's Grants for Arts Projects range from \$10,000 to \$100,000 for projects that span a range of arts disciplines and begin in 2023.

Application deadline: Feb. 10.

Challenge America Grants

The NEA's Challenge America Grants offer support primarily to small organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations. Grants are \$10,000 for projects that begin in 2023.

Application deadline: April 21.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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Challenge America Grants Webinar
March 1, 2 p.m.

[REGISTER FOR WEBINAR](#)

What We're Reading

What Cultural Organizations Can Expect for 2022
The cultural data experts at **IMPACTS Experience** have updated their [2022 forecast for attendance](#) at museums and performing arts organizations (hint: there's good news).

colleendilenschneider
know your own bone



Pandemic's Impacts on BIPOC Artists and Arts Administrators

The group **Arts Administrators of Color** has published [a study on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic](#) on artists and arts administrators identifying as Black, Indigenous and/or People of Color.

Nonprofit Workforce Challenges

Nonprofits across the country reported challenges filling vacancies and retaining staff in the last half of 2021. A new [report](#) from the **National Council on Nonprofits** talks about why, and what can be done to help.

 **National Council of Nonprofits**



Ten Dimensions of Powerful Arts Education

The **Hewlett Foundation** has released a [report](#) identifying ten, flexible dimensions of powerful arts education, emphasizing the potential of arts education to help youth explore their identity and express themselves.

The Arts Are More Important To Us, Survey Finds

A newly-released [report](#) from CultureTrack finds that, a year into the pandemic, respondents considered the arts more important to them personally, with in-person cultural activities and free virtual arts experiences being valued most.



Coming Up

Grants

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

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

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

Feb. 1: [Creative Capital x Skoll Foundation Fund](#)

Feb. 10: [Grant for Arts Projects](#)

Feb. 14: [Paint Iowa Beautiful, Keep Iowa Beautiful](#)

Feb. 25: [Derelict Building Grant Program, Iowa Department of Natural Resources](#)

April 21: [Challenge America Grants](#)

March 24: [Innovate Grant](#)

March 30: [USArtists International Grants Program, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation](#)

Student Opportunities

Jan. 21: [Poetry Out Loud](#)

Feb. 11: [Keep Iowa Beautiful Annual High School Senior Scholarships](#)

April 1: [Iowa Scholarship for the Arts](#)

Calls for Artists

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

Jan. 15: [Choral Composition Competition](#)

Jan. 15: [Pottawattamie Arts, Culture & Entertainment inaugural exhibition 'New Masters'](#)

Jan. 15: [Iowa Lakeside Laboratory](#)

Jan. 17: [Cover Art, The Annals of Iowa](#)

Jan. 28: [Polk County Community Visioning Committee](#)

Jan. 28: [Performing Arts Discovery Program, Western Alliance](#)

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

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

Feb. 7: [The Curator's Salon](#)

Feb. 13: [Materials Hard + Soft, Greater Denton Arts Council](#)

Feb. 15: [Ring Out For Art](#)

Feb. 25: [Boosting the Signal: Women's History in Art, Gal's Guide Library](#)

Feb. 25: [2022 WDMurals, City of West Des Moines](#)

March 1: [Fine Arts and Cultural Events of Mahaska County](#)



[Iowa Arts Council](#) | [Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs](#) | 515-281-5111 | [iowaculture.gov/arts](#)