

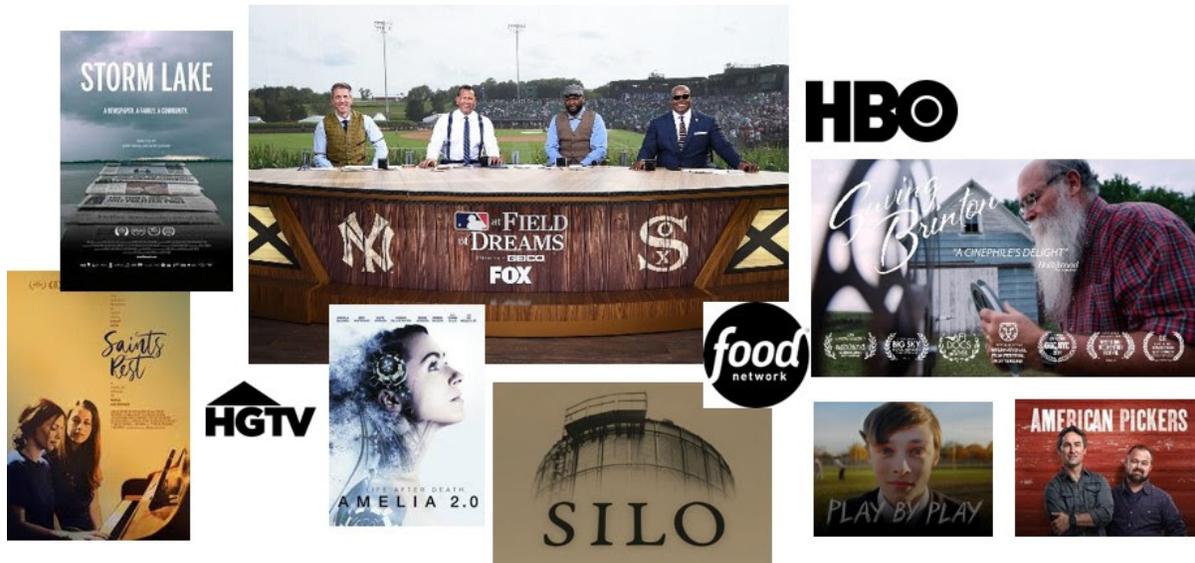
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS
COUNCIL

PRODUCE
IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF IOWA

PRODUCE IOWA
STATE OFFICE OF MEDIA PRODUCTION



Happy Ninth Anniversary!

Believe it or not, in about two weeks we'll be celebrating **the ninth anniversary of Produce Iowa, the state office of media production**. We launched the office from scratch on May 1, 2013, and have strategically built a foundation of support in communities throughout the state. And we've done it organically, which we feel is very important.

Produce Iowa is the reimagined state film office, and our primary goal is to support Iowans. Gov. Terry Branstad placed our office in the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs with the goal of building a culture. We want to incubate Iowa stories and create homegrown projects in our state. As technology continues to evolve, it's why you don't see the use of "film" in our name; stories can be told on a variety of platforms.

Produce Iowa connects producers to resources and solutions on a daily basis. We facilitate requests from programmers such as **HBO, HGTV, Discovery** and other producers who want to visit Iowa, hire Iowans and spend money here on productions. Our online [Media Production Directory and Location Database](#) connects Iowans to these jobs, so it's a good idea to keep your free listing up to date. We've found that film and media projects create **high-paying trade jobs, boost small businesses and drive tourism** while attracting and retaining residents.

We also improve the quality of life. Our office supports community film festivals and educational experiences to encourage Iowans with their cultural storytelling. **We support 16 [Iowa film festivals](#), from the Siouxland to Snake Alley**, that welcome filmmakers from around the world. We helped produce 14 one-hour episodes of “**[The Film Lounge](#)**” for IowaPBS, which



elevates the craft of Iowa filmmakers. We also developed a **[MediaMasters Series](#)** to offer Iowa residents professional development training in our industry – 19 classes to date.

We assist **[26 colleges and universities in Iowa](#)** that offer a media production program. That number often surprises people! But it's also why it's so important to build an industry that **retains creatives** and **develops opportunities** upon graduation. It's also what gave us the idea to launch the **[Greenlight Grants](#)** three years ago. Iowa scripts create jobs that fuel our sustainable ecosystem. The grants just add the spark.

We've come a long way since 2013. Together, we've built an authentic film industry from the ground up. **Thank you for your support!** And our **thanks to Governor Kim Reynolds** for her recommendation of a **new budget line item of \$450,000 for the Greenlight Grants in the 2023 budget**. We started the program with seed funding three years ago to nurture Iowa filmmakers and grow the industry. Now we can't wait to see what's next!

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Filmmaker finds fertile ground in Fairfield



Speaking of Greenlight Grants, read our latest **[blog](#)** to learn about a recent grant-funded project that was filmed in Fairfield and Bentonsport. The **Iowa filmmaker Graham Swon**, who moved to Fairfield from New York City, is finishing post production on “**An Evening Song**” and is planning for a worldwide premiere later this year. We look forward to seeing Graham's movie and wish him the best of luck!

[READ THE BLOG](#)

Dubuque's time to shine

Since 2012, the [Julien Dubuque International Film Festival](#) has enriched and educated its community and bridged cultures by promoting the arts through independent film. This year promises to be the best one yet, **April 20-24**. Downtown businesses will open their doors to host panels, workshops, film screenings, parties and more. Check out the schedule of events, and make special note of **Produce Iowa's Women Who Film** networking reception on Friday afternoon during the festival. Plan your getaway to the big screen in Dubuque!



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Welcome back home, Iowa filmmakers!



On the set of "Mushtown," near Stratford

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We now offer listings for Iowa expatriates in our online [Media Production Directory](#). If you're a former Iowa resident and agree to work as a local on an as-needed basis in our state, please consider a complimentary listing. Your qualifications will be made public for prospective employers, but access to your contact information will be available only through the Produce Iowa office. This allows us to offer additional specialized crew members with Iowa roots to help augment larger productions in our state.

\$100 million investment in Iowa

Gov. Kim Reynolds recently announced an investment of \$100 million dollars for placemaking projects through a new grant program called [Destination Iowa](#). With federal funding from the **American Rescue Plan Act**, our state is looking for transformational creative projects that will spur economic development, outdoor recreation, tourism and other positive cultural impacts. Check out the guidelines



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and **submit your application, beginning May 9.**



Learn stories from Iowa's past and help its future

Volunteers are needed to help judge the [National History Day in Iowa state contest](#) on Monday, April 25, at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines. Judges will **evaluate student projects** in categories such as historical documentaries, performing arts, exhibits, papers and websites. In exchange, judges will receive **complimentary parking, continental breakfast, boxed lunch and a thank-you gift** – not to mention the satisfaction of helping to create a positive experience for young historians.

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Tick . . . tick . . . tick . . .

Time is ticking to [apply for a grant](#) for your next project. If you've written a script and are looking for that spark to take it to the next level, consider applying for a **Greenlight Grant** by **May 2**.

It's also time to submit your short films for the seventh season of "[The Film Lounge](#)" on **Iowa PBS**. Submissions are due **June 1**.

Both programs are great opportunities to build your career in Iowa and allow us to spotlight you. Tick, tick, tick....



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Awards Gala in Ottumwa



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And the winner is . . . You'll have to wait until Saturday, May 14, for the **Iowa Motion Picture Association Awards Gala** at the Bridge View Center in Ottumwa. Entries are being judged now by qualified judges throughout the United States. Award-winning Hollywood cinematographer and visual effects supervisor **Anup Kulkarni (pictured) is the keynote speaker**. Find [more information](#) on the IMPA website.