

Iowa Arts Summit: Send in Your Session Ideas

The Iowa Arts Summit returns this summer with virtual sessions on Aug. 10-11 and an in-person event on Aug. 12 at Mainframe Studios in Des Moines. The biennial conference brings together **artists, filmmakers, nonprofit professionals and community leaders** for a day of networking, learning and celebrating the arts in Iowa.



We'd love to hear your ideas for summit sessions, speakers and performers to benefit and inspire your work in the arts.

[Submit your ideas](#) by Wednesday, April 20.

[LEARN MORE](#)

[SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS](#)



Gov. Kim Reynolds has announced a \$100 million investment in Iowa's quality of life and tourism through a new grant program called [Destination Iowa](#). The funding will support visionary projects in

Guidelines

Review the [Destination Iowa guidelines](#) on the Iowa Economic Development Authority website.

four key areas: economic development, outdoor recreation, tourism, and creative placemaking.

The program **accelerates ongoing momentum for creative placemaking** across the state, generated by business, government, education and cultural leaders. It also recognizes the role you and others play in **creating places where people want to visit, live and work** – from our smallest towns to biggest cities.

Across Iowa, communities are investing in their unique sense of place by **showcasing local art, culture, history, film and media** through major infrastructure projects. Each community has exciting potential to attract tourism, new businesses, private investment and positive attention for our state.

Now is the time to think big. What could help *your* community create an even stronger sense of authentic place? What could transform *your* destination on the Iowa map?

The application window opens **May 9** for projects that must be completed by June 30, 2026. Funding is made available through the federal **American Rescue Plan Act**.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Webinar

To learn more, tune in to a [webinar](#) at **10 a.m. Friday, April 15**, for details about the program and application process.

[WEBINAR](#)

Webinar Series on Public Art

As part of our focus on creative places, the Iowa Arts Council is offering a four-part webinar series called **“Public Art Fundamentals”** to explore aspects of effective public art programs. The sessions will address topics including public art committees, funding, maintenance and master plans.

April 15: 11 a.m., [Session One](#)
April 27: 11 a.m., [Session Two](#)
May 11: 11 a.m., [Session Three](#)
May 25: 11 a.m., [Session Four](#)

The sessions will be recorded.

Series Instructor Dan Perry, pictured, is an award-winning interdisciplinary artist and educator who has shown his artwork in museums, art centers and outdoor sculpture exhibitions across Iowa and the United States, in addition to completing 15 commissions of large-scale public sculptures. An active member of several arts committees and a frequent consultant on public art, he teaches sculpture in the **University of Northern**



Iowa's Department of Art and is the coordinator of the university's **Public Art Incubator** program.

REGISTER: APRIL 15

REGISTER: MAY 11

REGISTER: APRIL 27

REGISTER: MAY 25

Meet the Artist Series Continues

Our **Meet the Artist** series featuring the current [Iowa Artist Fellows](#) continues with **Paul Brooke** and **Brittany Brooke Crow**.

Remember to register in advance for the programs so you'll receive a recording, even if you can't attend the live presentation.



April 21 at noon: Paul Brooke
"Nature Through Lens and Form"

[Register](#)

Paul once perched on a cliff in Iceland to photograph an elusive blue fox. He trekked through the Amazon rainforest to find red-faced uakari monkeys, and traveled across a Chilean desert to see flamingos under a starlit sky. He also photographs weeds. [Learn more about this poet-photographer.](#)

REGISTER



April 28 at noon: Brittany Brooke Crow
"Representation in Self-Portraiture"

[Register](#)

Brittany Brooke fell in love with photography as soon as she set foot in the darkroom at Johnston High School. At 30, her process is different, but she still describes watching a print come to life as a magical experience. [Learn how she overcame fear by turning the camera on herself.](#)

REGISTER

In Case You Missed It . . .

Louise Kames kicked off the series earlier this month with a program called "**I Don't See Anything That's Not Beautiful.**" She discussed how her drawings, prints and multimedia installations blend inspiration from spiritual traditions, quiet meditation and careful observation.



WATCH THE RECORDING

Iowa Arts Council Board of Directors

Are you interested in advising the Iowa Arts Council and advocating for the arts in Iowa? Iowans who serve on the **Iowa Arts Council's Board of Directors** are recognized for their interest or experience with the performing and fine arts. The first step is to [complete an application](#) through Talent Bank, the State of Iowa's online portal for boards and commissions.