



Gov. Reynolds and DCA announce \$2.3 million in grants

Gov. Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs this week announced **more than \$2.3 million in grants** have been awarded to **191 Iowa organizations and individuals** working in arts, culture, history, humanities, film and media in **69 communities**.

The **grants support creative placemaking**, a strategy that centers arts and culture in community and economic development. The funding supports Iowa's creative workforce, revitalizes historic districts, launches public art projects, advances film stories "from script to screen" – and more.

Cultural attractions – including **museums, performing arts venues, science centers, gardens, film and music festivals** – draw in visitors and engage their communities through arts and culture. The new grants support cultural

The grants announced this week are divided into four broad categories:

Arts & Culture

The Iowa Arts Council awarded \$1,550,979 in grants to 146 projects in 51 Iowa communities.

Film & Media

Produce Iowa awarded \$120,000 through three Greenlight Grants for film and digital media productions in Iowa.

Humanities

The interim Iowa Humanities Council awarded \$60,831 to eight humanities projects.

destinations that collectively offer more than six million days of engagement every year.

The department also supports 60 of Iowa's leading arts and cultural organizations as **Cultural Leadership Partners**, which maintain high standards, attract tourists, generate economic activity and sustain high-quality jobs.

History

The State Historical Society of Iowa awarded \$553,912 in 24 grants in 20 communities for research projects and other initiatives.

Image: Block party in Iowa City.

[LEARN MORE](#)

[SEE THE LIST OF RECIPIENTS](#)

Funding is made possible through annual appropriations from the Iowa Legislature and through state-federal partnerships with the **National Endowment for the Arts** and the **National Endowment for the Humanities**. Additional funding comes from the nonprofit **State Historical Society of Iowa, Inc.**, and through the state's **Resource Enhancement and Protection Act**.

DCA designates Iowa Great Places and Iowa Cultural & Entertainment Districts

Thirteen Iowa communities will receive the state's support through two creative placemaking programs that put the **arts, culture and history** at the center of creative community development.

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs has designated new Iowa Great Places in **Jefferson, Oskaloosa, Washington and Woodbine**, and re-designated **Appanoose County/Vermillion Township, Bondurant, Council Bluffs, Malvern, Maquoketa** and the **Turkey River Recreation Corridor**.



The department also designated new Iowa Cultural & Entertainment Districts in **Iowa City, McGregor and Winterset**.

Both designation programs are key components of Iowa's creative placemaking strategy, which drives cultural community development and economic opportunities in the state.

Photo: Oskaloosa, courtesy of Travel Iowa.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Iowa's creative community will come together at the 2022 Iowa Arts Summit, to be presented **online Aug. 10-11 and in person Aug. 12 in Des Moines.**

During the summit, you'll learn, connect and celebrate the arts in Iowa while becoming inspired, gaining new ideas and learning practical tips from artists and creatives, nonprofit professionals and community leaders.

At this year's summit, you'll:

- **Hear from leading national voices** in the arts, including National Assembly of State Arts Agencies President Pam Breaux and Americans for the Arts Chief Counsel of Government and Public Affairs Nina Ozlu Tunceli.
- **Learn from Iowa arts leaders** and hear about innovative projects that support Iowa's creative workforce.
- **Renew and make new connections** at networking breaks and lunch roundtables.
- **Share best practices** for valuing creative work, engaging creatives, recruiting volunteers, raising funds on a budget, and much more.

[Schedule at a Glance](#)

Sessions focus on a wide range of topics, including Creative Communities, Community Planning and Local Government, Advocacy, Reducing Barriers and more. **Look for the full schedule** to be available at lowaculture.gov next week.

[Register Here](#)

Aug. 10-11

9 a.m. to noon each day

Virtual sessions are **FREE**; registration required.

Aug. 12

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mainframe Studios
Des Moines

\$50 per person registration includes refreshments and lunch.

Who Should Attend?

- Artists, filmmakers and creatives.
- Nonprofit arts professionals.
- Local government leaders.
- Creative community builders.

REGISTER

Image: "Among Friends" and "I Love Music"
by [Chaveevah Ferguson](#) of Waterloo.

Arts & Culture in Community Development

More than three decades ago, it was unusual that artists would be involved with city planning and helping communities grow.

Today, creative communities and organizations like **Springboard for the Arts** of St. Paul are encouraging artists to be at the planning table from the get go.

Learn what community leaders have to say about artist-based community development projects in this fresh, new [blog](#) from the Iowa Arts Council. Then register for the [2022 Iowa Arts Summit](#) to hear directly from Springboard for the Arts.



"Wings of Life," a mural in Dubuque. Photo: Bob Felderman Photography

[READ THE BLOG](#)

Grantee Spotlight: 'Lost in the Midwest'



"Japanese Barberry, *Berberis thunbergii*,"
by Kelsey Wilson

With support from an **American Rescue Plan Arts** grant, artist and illustrator **Kelsey Wilson, of Nevada, Iowa**, completed a new watercolor botanical series titled "Lost in the Midwest." Wilson started the series during the pandemic as a way of finding solace in nature and promoting healing for people and the environment alike. An exhibit of Wilson's new works is currently on display at **Morning Bell Coffee Roasters** in Ames.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Grantee Spotlight: Sioux City Art Center



The Sioux City Art Center, a designated **Cultural Leadership Partner**, recently unveiled a new mural in its **Gilchrist Learning Center**. The 70-foot long by 7.5-foot high mural was **designed and painted by Sioux City high school students**, working under the guidance of four lead artists, and depicts the students' experiences and issues of importance to them.

Image courtesy of Sioux City Art Center.

LEARN MORE

Arts Midwest Names Oskaloosa a New World Fest Community

Arts Midwest has named Oskaloosa as one of its 10 new World Fest communities. The **three-year designation** brings Arts Midwest and Oskaloosa's **George Daily Auditorium** into a partnership to organize concerts, workshops and other artist events.

World Fest offers small to mid-sized Midwestern communities an opportunity to host international touring ensembles that deliver school workshops, masterclasses and a public concert at the end of a one-week community residency.



Photo, from top: Okaidja Afroso, Okra Playground, and Pamyua. Credit: artsmidwest.org

LEARN MORE

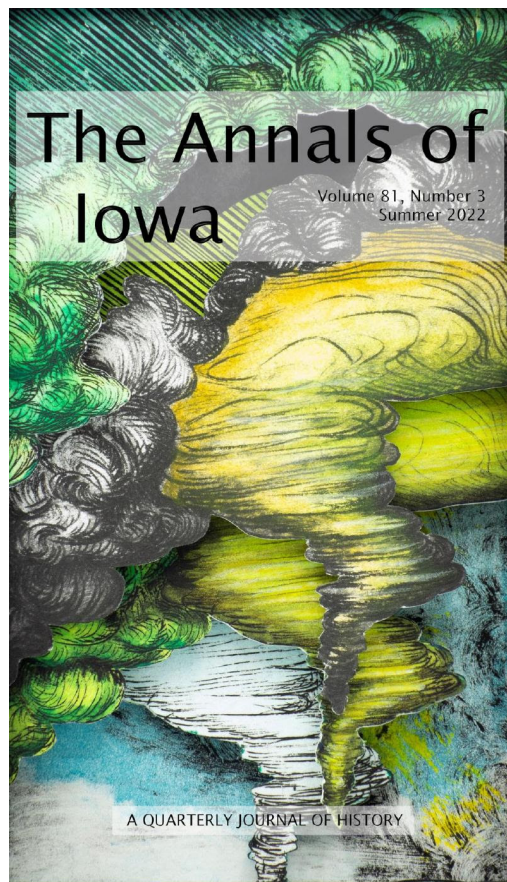
Call for Art: The Annals of Iowa

Apply to have your artwork featured on the cover of the state's flagship historical journal, **The Annals of Iowa**.

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 **more than 2 million downloads from readers throughout the globe**, including more than 400,000 downloads in 2021.

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.

Cover art: Raluca Iancu, "Tornadogenesis," 2020, tunnel book with drypoint, monotype, cut paper, watercolor and colored pencil.



[LEARN MORE](#)