

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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Spring Break at the State Historical Museum: *Family flicks, new exhibits and highly popular vault tours*

DES MOINES – The State Historical Museum of Iowa will be a Spring Break destination for families, history buffs and lifelong learners to experience programs, tours and new exhibit displays showcasing Iowa history. Family movie matinees, a new exhibit of restored Iowa battle flags, an interactive display about important Iowans, and other arts and history activities are free for tourists and Iowans of all ages. The State Historical Museum is overseen by the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI), a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA).

“Spring Break is a time when families and groups travel together, and the State Historical Museum is a destination for all ages and interests,” said SHSI Administrator and Museum Director Susan Kloewer. “Family-friendly films with ties back to Iowa and hands-on arts activities will appeal to younger visitors, and all visitors can explore new exhibits that highlight significant pieces of Iowa history.”

Following is a list of exhibits, programs and tours being highlighted during this year’s Spring Break (March 13-21) at the State Historical Museum of Iowa:

New Exhibit Displays – Open March 13 **9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mon-Sat** **Noon-4:30 p.m. Sunday**

- **Battle Flag Hall** – Explore the stories behind more than a dozen battle flags from the Museum’s collection, including national and regimental flags from the Civil War (including a Confederate flag), Spanish-American War and World War I. These battle flags have been fully stabilized and preserved, and will be on display through summer 2015.
- **Wall of Iowans** – This new interactive exhibit display uses a large projection to show images and biographical information of nearly 30 Iowans – from Peggy Whitson and Meredith Willson to Carrie Chapman Catt and Alexander Clark – who made important contributions to our state, nation, world, or respective fields of work.

Matinees at the Museum **March 16-20 at 1 p.m. – Free**

Each of these films have a strong connection to Iowa and are complementary to the current Museum exhibition, “Hollywood in the Heartland.” Museum staff will offer brief remarks prior to each movie to further showcase the Iowa connection. Visit www.iowahistory.org/springbreak for movie listings.

Museum Vault Tours **March 16-20 at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. – Free** **(Ages 10 and up)**

Museum staff will highlight artifacts in the State Historical Museum’s permanent collection, which is kept in the climate-controlled storage vault beneath the State Historical Building when not on exhibit. Featured artifacts will include children’s toys, Native American items, a 1940 X-Ray Shoe Fitter used in Knoxville and the original Iowa Lottery wheel.

- **These tours filled up during last year’s Spring Break and are expected to be in high demand again this year**
- Make reservations on-line at www.iowahistory.org/springbreak
- Contact Jessica Rundlett at 515-281-7471 for more information

Making Art Public: Hands-On Art Activities **March 16-20 at 10-11:30 a.m. – Free**

Iowa Arts Council staff and guest teachers will lead a different hands-on activity each day, revolving around the recently new exhibition “Making Art Public,” which explores the beauty and history of public art in Iowa. Photographs, museum artifacts and original artworks highlight the earliest beginnings of public art in the state, significant artists (including Grant Wood), major themes, the creative process and where it is found in Iowa.

Make a Mural **March 17 & 19 – 3-4 p.m. – Free**

Students will work together to decide on a theme and collaborate on creating a mural using a variety of art materials. Instructor Nicole K. James is an experienced arts educator and artist who has taught a variety of courses for children and adults at the Des Moines Art Center. Learn more about Nicole at www.nicolekames.com/teaching-artist.

In addition, Café Baratta’s offers a panoramic view of downtown Des Moines and the Capitol Building from its third-floor terrace café. Customers enjoy a seasonal menu with classic bistro fare. Open 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

The State Historical Museum and Café Baratta’s are located at the State Historical Building, 600 E. Locust Street in Des Moines. Admission is free. Parking is free at the state parking garage north of the building. For more information, call 515-281-5111 or visit www.iowahistory.org.

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The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs is responsible for developing the state's interest in the areas of the arts, history and other cultural matters with the advice and assistance from its three divisions: the State Historical Society of Iowa, the Iowa Arts Council, and Produce Iowa – State Office of Media Production. DCA preserves, researches, interprets and promotes an awareness and understanding of local, state and regional history and stimulates and encourages the study and presentation of the performing and fine arts and public interest and participation in them. It implements tourism-related art and history projects as directed by the General Assembly and designs a comprehensive, statewide, long-range plan with the assistance of the Iowa Arts Council to develop the arts in Iowa. More information about DCA is available at www.culturalaffairs.org.