



IOWA
ARTS | **ARTS**
SUMMIT

KNOWLEDGE ■ CONNECTION ■ COLLABORATION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2020

Virtual Conference

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF **CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

IOWA ARTS SUMMIT OVERVIEW

In the wake of a global pandemic and amid the movement for civil rights, the way we create, present, and interact with art has changed. On August 7, connect with leading state and national voices in the arts to discover how Iowa's creative sector can embrace this new relationship with art and boldly redefine the art world together.

The summit tracks of **KNOWLEDGE**, **CONNECTION** and **COLLABORATION** broadly reflect the tools communities need to move forward and are invariably interwoven with innovation, the expertise of the creative community. Sessions will be led by speakers who designed innovative ways to reinvent the art world to not just return to "normal" post-pandemic, but to strengthen the creative sector so it can flourish.

Today's Iowa Arts Summit is a chance for you to step away from your busy day-to-day routine and to refresh your skills while gaining inspiration and ideas that you can take back to your community, organization or creative business.

It is also an opportunity to acknowledge the real challenges our industry continues to face from the pandemic. As we gather today, we know that many artists are still struggling to make up for lost income and employment and that many arts organizations are challenged to maintain their operations in the face of lost admissions and ticket sales and cancelled events.

Iowa's creative workforce is incredibly resourceful and resilient, but the loss of so many sources of support continues to place an enormous strain on our industry.

As we look forward, we know that the arts and artists are and will be essential to Iowa's recovery from this pandemic. For example,

- Our industry possesses the creativity, knowledge and innovation that Iowa schools and parents will need this fall;
- The arts bring people together - whether online or in our spaces - at a time when connection and social interaction are needed more than ever;
- We celebrate diversity, inclusion and equity as fundamental values;
- And we collaborate to create more culturally vibrant communities.

It's in this collective response - and the incredible resourcefulness and creativity of our industry - that give us reason to be hopeful for the future.



CHRIS KRAMER

Director

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs



DAVID SCHMITZ

Administrator

Iowa Arts Council

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Get Engaged.....	4
Schedule at a Glance	5
The Art Lounge	6-8
Detailed Schedule	9-14
Featured Artists.....	15-17
Presenters	18-24
Sponsors & Partners.....	25
About Us.....	26

GET ENGAGED

The first-ever virtual Iowa Arts Summit in 2020 brings together artists, filmmakers, creative entrepreneurs, nonprofit professionals and community leaders for a day of networking, learning and celebrating the arts in Iowa. Take advantage of the opportunities below to get engaged and stay connected with colleagues statewide.

VISIT THE ART LOUNGE

Check out the virtual [Art Lounge](#), where you can view artwork, engage with Iowa artists and create your own art at home to share during the summit.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Connect with colleagues over shared interests and build a network through the new [Iowa Arts Summit Connections Facebook group](#). Participants can share resources, swap contact information, ask questions and engage with arts leaders from across the state. All summit participants will be granted access to the Facebook group but must have a Facebook profile to participate in the group discussion.

Post-summit materials will contain a list of attendees of the 2020 Iowa Arts Summit. Stay in touch with your colleagues after the day ends and help keep Iowa's arts network strong.

EVALUATION

Your feedback is important to us! Please complete the online evaluation form you'll receive after the summit to let us know what you enjoyed about the 2020 Iowa Arts Summit and what could be improved.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION ONLINE



#iowaculture

Share thoughts and inspiration from the 2020 Iowa Arts Summit by using the hashtags **#IowaArts** **#IowaArtsSummit** and tagging **@IowaArtsCouncil** on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE | AUGUST 7, 2020

■ KNOWLEDGE

■ CONNECTION

■ COLLABORATION

8:30–9:00 AM

ANNALIBERA PERFORMANCE

9:00–10:00 AM

WELCOME + PLENARY: THE ROLE & STATE OF THE ARTS IN 2020

10:05–10:25 AM

NETWORKING GROUPS

10:30–11:15 AM

MORNING SESSIONS

- How to Facilitate Effective Strategic Planning
- Programming During a Pandemic
- Potions for Cultural Equity in Iowa

11:20–11:40 AM

NETWORKING GROUPS

11:40 AM–1:00 PM

LUNCH PROGRAM

- Calle Sur Performance
- Governor's Arts Awards
- Iowa Artist Fellow Scott Bradley
- Dance Break with Michelle Marie

1:00–1:45 PM

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

- Business Plan Essentials
- De-Centering Whiteness Through Inclusive Arts Practice
- You've Got This! Arts Advocacy 101

1:45–2:00 PM

ART LOUNGE

2:00–2:45 PM

MID-AFTERNOON SESSIONS

- Community Resilience Through the Arts
- Revisioning Relevance to Become OF/BY/FOR ALL
- You've Got This, Too! Advocating at the State & Federal Level

2:45–3:00 PM

ART LOUNGE

3:00–4:00 PM

VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR

THE ART LOUNGE

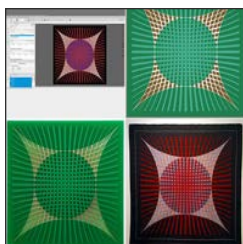
The virtual [Art Lounge](#) provides opportunities to experience the arts throughout the day. Check out innovative art projects, engage with Iowa artists, discover Iowa music, and create your own art at home.

[Access all projects links online.](#)



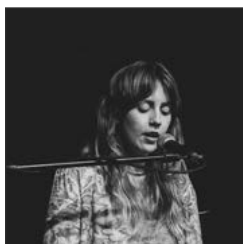
BETWEEN SYSTEMS AND GROUNDS

Longtime collaborators Olivia Valentine, a new Iowa Artist Fellow from Des Moines, and composer Paula Matthusen of Middletown, Connecticut, combine textile construction and feedback-based electronic music. Previously, sharing time and physical space was an essential aspect of their work. But now, during the pandemic, online streaming tools and modifications to Olivia's Compu-Dobby loom have enabled the artistic duo to create a 2-hour, pre-recorded performance that will stream on a continuous loop during the Iowa Arts Summit. Curious? Read more online about [Olivia](#) and [Paula](#) and their collaborative project, "[between systems and grounds.](#)"



FROM CIRCUIT BOARD TO TEXTILE

Iowa Artist Fellow [Tibi Chelcea](#), a Romanian-born computer scientist from Ames, combines the parts and processes of both digital technologies and traditional art disciplines, such as printmaking and drawing, to create hybrid artwork that is uniquely his own. His unexpected correlations between new and old technologies raise questions about consumption, serial design and the pros and cons of automated and by-hand labor. During the Iowa Arts Summit, Tibi will offer a brief demonstration and present artwork that combines textiles and circuit boards to explore historical connections between the textile and computing industries.



IOWA MUSIC PLAYLISTS

Take a break from your computer and go on a walk with a few [Spotify playlists](#) curated by the Iowa Arts Council. Featuring musicians from across the state, these playlists showcase the incredible talent, passion and resilience of artists right here in Iowa -- and help you immerse yourself in the arts anytime and anywhere.

THE ART LOUNGE

READINGS FROM "WE THE INTERWOVEN"

Writers from the Iowa Writers' House in Iowa City will read excerpts from the anthology "We the Interwoven," an ongoing project that showcases the stories of bicultural Iowans. Although the traditional story of Iowa focuses on farm families of European descent, today's Iowa tells a different story—a uniquely beautiful tapestry woven from people of many backgrounds, many of whom are experiencing America for the first time. During the Iowa Arts Summit, you'll hear from the following writers:



Andrea Wilson the founder and executive director of the Iowa Writers' House. She grew up in Columbus Junction, a small town experiencing a cultural shift from the meatpacking industry and seasonal agricultural work, and is dedicated to creating greater empathy by encouraging under-represented voices to tell their stories.



Eyad Said was born in Damascus, Syria, and lives with his family in Cedar Rapids. A husband and father of two, he is an assistant professor of mathematics at Mount Mercy University and uses his writing to explore the wounds caused by the tragedies in Syria -- and to share more Syrian stories with the people of Iowa.



Shalini Jasti, born in Chirala, India, came to the United States when she was just six months old and considers herself to be equally Indian and American. She hopes her story about her mother and literature will encourage other writers of South Asian heritage to confidently claim their own identities.



Alisha Jeddelloh, the associate director of the Iowa Writers' House, grew up on a farm near Fairfield, where cornfields meet the golden domes of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and the transcendental meditation movement. Those contrasting cultures helped her appreciate difference as a catalyst for creativity, which continues to inform her work as a writer and editor. She and her family live in Iowa City, where she is working on a novel that explores community and belonging.

THE ART LOUNGE



PLAGUE TOWN 2020

Iowa Artist Fellow Rob Stephens is finding new ways to create after recent changes to his health. The Des Moines artist currently lives in New Orleans and is creating artwork to explore grief and other feelings associated with loss of mobility, autonomy and isolation -- feelings many people are experiencing during the current age of the pandemic, quarantine, civil unrest, fascism and murder hornets.

pōSH(ə)nS
FOR HUMANITY

POTION-MAKING FOR CULTURAL EQUITY IN IOWA

Emerging from an Iowa Arts Council-funded project, Jonny Stax and a creative crew of artists, educators, healers, entrepreneurs and organizers are launching “Potions for Humanity.” Based on medicine shows of the late 1800s, this potion show encourages people to brew their own healing tinctures through storytelling, power-sharing and art-making. This summer, they are calling all creative Iowans to make potions that conjure powers to help society become more just, equitable, diverse and inclusive (JEDI). Go online to find a set of [instructional videos](#) to help you make your own potions and join Iowa's creative force for JEDI transformation.

SCHEDULE | FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2020

8:30-9:00 AM ANNALIBERA PERFORMANCE

Kick off the virtual Iowa Arts Summit with Des Moines singer and pianist Anna Gebhardt, performing original songs from her recent album, plus her own take on a 500-year-old Irish ballad.

9:00-10:00 AM MORNING PLENARY

Welcome

Chris Kramer, *Director, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs*

Jaron Rosien, *Iowa Arts Council Board of Directors*

The Role & State of the Arts in 2020

Betty Andrews, *President and CEO, Betty Andrews Media and State President, Iowa-Nebraska NAACP*

Linda Harrison, *President and CEO, Newark Museum of Art*

Beatrice Thomas, *Artist and Consultant, Authentic Arts and Media*

Moderator: David Schmitz, *Administrator, Iowa Arts Council*

Hear from a panel of state and national leaders as they discuss how the pandemic has disrupted nearly every aspect of American life, culture, and the arts; caused widespread economic loss and layoffs; and revealed disparities and injustices stemming from systemic racism. The panel will discuss ways the arts can meaningfully contribute to justice, equity and inclusion and chart a bold course forward in difficult economic times.

10:05-10:25 AM NETWORKING GROUPS

Join your colleagues to discuss current developments in the creative industry. Choose your topic of interest to join the conversation, ask questions, and hear updates from the field. Each group is facilitated by an industry expert who will help guide the discussion.

- **Reflection on the Morning Session**

Facilitated by Brandon Paulsen, *Iowa Arts Council Board of Directors*

- **Virtual Learning**

Facilitated by Jennifer Cooley, *Education & Outreach Manager, State Historical Museum of Iowa*

- **Development & Fundraising**

Facilitated by Katie Roche, *Development Director, Englert Theatre*

10:30-11:15 AM MORNING SESSIONS

Creating a Roadmap: How to Facilitate Effective Strategic Planning

Cassandra Halls, *President, 2 THE TOP*

A well-designed strategic plan is the road map to provide clear understanding of specific, defined goals. Strategic planning allows for insight, innovation, ownership and excitement! Join this session to learn how to facilitate fun and productive strategic planning!

- Innovative ideas for how to prepare for a strategic planning session that creates buy-in and drives results.
- Understand how to facilitate discussion during the planning session, ensuring all voices are heard and contributions are recognized.
- Leave with an outline of critical components to be included in the strategic plan.
- Know how to shift the planning process into action.

Potions for Cultural Equity in Iowa

Jonny Stax, *Artist*

As we move forward in this time of disruption, we have the opportunity to adapt toward more just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive (JEDI) artistic and creative sectors. At Des Moines Art Week in June, we began charting courses toward JEDI transformation by looking at how bias has influenced how we organize ourselves. Many people took up the call to make potions from their stories, conjuring the powers we need on these journeys. At this workshop, everyone who made a potion can share in small group settings with those who didn't. A diverse panel of Iowa potionmakers will share their potions and discuss plans for adapting toward more JEDI practices, institutions, communities, and sectors. Participants will begin to articulate visions for transformation, kicking off another round of potionmaking.

Programming During a Pandemic: Innovation in the Performing Arts

Scott Cornwell and Susan Price, *Creators, Smokestack*

Michaela Freiburger, *Program Specialist, Dubuque Main Street*

David Kilpatrick, *Executive Director, Des Moines Community Playhouse*

Travis Morgan, *CEO, Sioux City Symphony Orchestra*

Erika Overturff, *Artistic Director & CEO, American Midwest Ballet*

In the wake of a global pandemic, resilient communities across the state have found new ways to create, present and engage with the arts. This session features a lightning round of innovative programming solutions from performing arts organizations across Iowa. The ideas highlighted are just a sample of the incredible contributions from arts organizations in response to the pandemic. We hope these ideas will leave you with additional tools and a renewed sense of inspiration to strengthen your community through the arts.



11:20-11:40 AM NETWORKING GROUPS

Join your colleagues to discuss current developments in the creative industry. Choose your topic of interest to join the conversation, ask questions, and hear updates from the field. Each group is facilitated by an industry expert who will help guide the discussion.

- **Public Art**

Facilitated by Teva Dawson and Mat Greiner, *Founders, Group Creatives*

- **Local Arts Leaders**

Facilitated by Jennie Knoebel, *Arts Learning Manager, Iowa Arts Council*

- **Museums**

Facilitated by Susan Kloewer, *Administrator, State Historical Society of Iowa*

11:40 AM-1:00 PM LUNCH PROGRAM

Music: Calle Sur Performance

The lunch program begins with live music from Calle Sur, which combines the talents of Ed East and Karin Stein. The duo's lively concerts are sprinkled with anecdotes and humor, which will make you remember these charismatic and talented Latin musicians for years to come.

Governor's Arts Awards

The Iowa Arts Council is pleased to present the 2020 Governor's Arts Awards. Nominations were received from across the state to recognize and honor individuals, organizations and communities in Iowa who have made a significant impact on the vitality of the arts in the state. Awardees are selected every other year by a panel of Iowa arts and culture professionals. Awards will be presented in the following categories:

- **Governor's Arts Awards**

Recognize an Iowa artist, artist team, nonprofit organization, city or county that has undertaken particularly significant work in the arts over the past two years (July 1, 2018 - April 1, 2020).

- **Governor's Arts Legacy Award**

Recognizes an Iowa artist or artist team, nonprofit or community that has had a particularly significant impact on the arts in Iowa over time.

PACKING by Scott Bradley, Iowa Artist Fellow

In a preview of "PACKING," Scott Bradley's recent solo performance, a queer vagabond leaves home on a three-decade odyssey of reinvention and self-discovery. From small-town Iowa to England, New York, and Chicago, Bradley's story navigates relationships, assaults, addictions, the plague years of the AIDS crisis, and the fight for marriage equality in a quest to find where he belongs.

Dance Break with Michelle Marie

Join Michelle Marie for a “slightly” guided dance party over the lunch hour! Get off the couch and shake it out for ten minutes -- nothing else required. All bodies, all abilities, all fun.

1:00-1:45 PM AFTERNOON SESSIONS

You've Got This! Arts Advocacy 101

Trish Bergren, *Iowa Cultural Coalition and Executive Director, Clarinda Carnegie Art Museum*
Leon Keuhner, *Iowa Cultural Coalition and Executive Director, Iowa Alliance for Arts Education*
Bob Untiedt, *Iowa Cultural Coalition and Executive Director, Friends of Orpheum Theatre*

This session will focus on the basics of effective advocacy and give participants the tools to advocate for the arts in your local communities and beyond. As artists, teachers, and nonprofit professionals, you already possess the knowledge and skills needed to be an effective voice for the arts.

De-Centering Whiteness Through Inclusive Arts Practice

Nancy Gebhart, *PhD Student, Social and Cultural Studies, School of Education, Iowa State University*

Often, even with the best of intentions, whiteness is centered in arts practice. However, having good intentions doesn't absolve anyone of perpetuating racism and white supremacy. Utilizing Critical Race Theory, this presentation will provide a formative evaluation framework for inclusive arts practice that de-centers whiteness. This session is intended for arts professionals who currently or want to engage in social justice work through their arts practice. The action steps following the session will be different for every individual, but people interested in this session would benefit from attending with an upcoming project in mind.

Business Plan Essentials

Adia Morris Swanger, *Program Manager of Professional Development, Springboard for the Arts*

Learn how to organize various aspects of your artistic practice, make informed business decisions and plan relevant strategies for resilience during these ever-changing times.

1:45-2:00 PM ART LOUNGE BREAK

Take a break and check out the virtual [Art Lounge](#) featuring innovative work by Iowa artists, including:

- Readings by writers of the Iowa Writers' House anthology **“We the Interwoven,”** an ongoing publication that showcases the stories of bicultural Iowans.
- The **“between systems and grounds”** collaboration by Iowa Artist Fellow Olivia Valentine and composer Paula Matthusen combines textile construction and feedback-based electronic music.
- Illustrative work by Iowa Artist Fellow Rob Stephens on the visual blog **“Plague Town 2020,”** which explores grief and other emotions stemming from loss of mobility, autonomy and isolation.

2:00-2:45 PM MID-AFTERNOON SESSIONS

You've Got This, Too! Advocating at the State & Federal Level

Jay Dick, *Senior Director of State and Local Government Affairs, Americans for the Arts*

Leon Keuhner, *Iowa Cultural Coalition and Executive Director, Iowa Alliance for Arts Education*

Learn about current arts-friendly public policy initiatives at the state and federal level from Americans for the Arts, the Iowa Cultural Coalition, and the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education. This session will help you craft your advocacy message and implement strategies to engage and educate political candidates and policy makers about the importance of the arts and a creative economy.

Revisoning Relevance to Become OF/BY/FOR ALL

Nina Simon, *Founder & CEO, OF/BY/FOR ALL*

The crises of this moment are challenging many of us to rethink how we lead, create, fundraise, program, and engage with audiences. If the pandemic is a portal (as Arundhati Roy puts it), where do we hope it will lead us? How can we reimagine and reinvent our organizations to be more relevant and inclusive?

In this interactive workshop, OF/BY/FOR ALL will share concrete strategies to help your team re-vision your organization and your relationship with the communities that matter most to your future. You'll leave the webinar with tools you can use to build a future of, by, and for your community.

Community Resilience Through the Arts

Julianne Couch, *Writer*

Jason Neises, *Community Development Coordinator, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque*

Maura Pilcher, *UI Office of Outreach and Engagement, and Director, Grant Wood Art Colony*

Michelle Spohnheimer, *Housing and Community Development Director, City of Marshalltown*

The disruptions and challenges created by the pandemic also present opportunities for greater integration of the arts and culture in economic and social regeneration strategies, recognizing the value of the arts to the well-being of citizens and communities. On this panel, you will hear from several Iowa leaders who have direct experience with building community resilience through efforts that incorporate the arts and culture. This panel is sponsored by the Iowa League of Cities.

2:45-3:00 PM ART LOUNGE BREAK

Take a break and check out the virtual [Art Lounge](#) featuring innovative work by Iowa artists, including:

- “From Circuit Board to Textile” demonstration by Iowa Artist Fellow Tibi Chelcea that combines textiles and circuit boards to explore historical connections between the textile and computing industries.
- Create your own healing tinctures by brewing “Potions for Humanity” through storytelling, power-sharing and art-making.
- Soundtrack your day via Spotify playlists featuring talented musicians from across the state.

3:00-4:00 PM VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR

Join Iowa artists for studio tours, collaborative arts projects and engaging discussions to digest information and unwind from the day. The lineup features artists Jordan Brooks, Dawson Davenport, Jazmine Johnson, Jamie Malone and Michelle Marie. Gather your creative tools in advance, including paper, pens and pencils, old magazines, glue, scissors and an open mind. This is your time to connect and create!

FEATURED ARTISTS

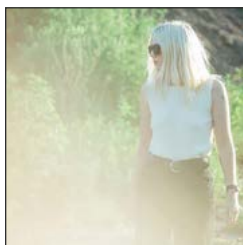


photo credit Meanz Chan

ANNALIBERA

Annalibera is a music project based in Des Moines. Anna Gebhardt began writing for the project in 2010, and in 2012 she began performing with guitarist Ryan Stier. Together with other players in the Iowa music scene they released their debut LP "Nevermind I Love You" in 2015. Almost simultaneously Anna released an experimental cassette which she recorded solo in her apartment, "loveil," which became one of the last releases on "Night People." To celebrate the "Night People" release, she created the "loveil" film, which has been screened at the Des Moines Underground Film Festival, Interrobang Film Festival and elsewhere. The next year Anna received a grant from the Iowa Arts Council, allowing her to further expand her production skills and experiences -- she self-produced 2018's "Opia" LP at Flat Black Studios in Iowa City and worked with Iowa producer Philip Rabalais to craft the project's latest album, "Moon Bath."



photo credit Elise Michaux

JORDAN BROOKS

Jordan Brooks is an illustrator, educator, muralist and facilitator -- in a word, a creator. His primary artistic mediums are pen and ink, digital painting, and acrylic painting. He is also the director of equity, inclusion and multicultural student success at Iowa State University's College of Design, where his research interests focus on cultural identity development, cultural education, equity and inclusion. His project KNWSLF combines his passion for creativity and identity development.



photo credit Karla Conrad

SCOTT BRADLEY, IOWA ARTIST FELLOW

Scott Bradley is an Iowa-born writer, performer and stage director, whose work has been seen across the United States. His musical "We Three Lizas" (book/lyrics) premiered with About Face Theatre and enjoyed multiple productions nationally. As co-founder of "The Scooty & JoJo Show," he wrote books for, directed and performed in Chicago's long-running musicals "Alien Queen" and "Carpenters Halloween," as well as the musicals "Mollywood," "Tran: The Atari Musical," and regular cabaret engagements. Since his return to Iowa in 2015, Scott was awarded a year-long residency at Scattergood Friends School, received his MFA from the Iowa Playwrights Workshop, contributed writing to "Hot Tamale Louie," and his documentary drama "The Wood Problem" was featured at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art and the American Gothic House. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild, Actors Equity and SAG/AFTRA. Scott currently lives and works in West Branch.

FEATURED ARTISTS



CALLE SUR

Calle Sur is what happens when you combine man and woman, Black and White, urban and rural. Seeing Calle Sur is living proof that the terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" can't be summarized.

Ed East is Panamanian. His upbringing in Panama City meant noise, hustle, bustle, and those chaotic smells and sights so characteristic of any developing metropolis. It also meant a fierce need for individuality and lots of musical innovation and creativity.

Karin Stein, his Colombian partner, brings to the music of Calle Sur the perspective of her rural upbringing. She grew up as a cowgirl on a remote ranch in the eastern *llanos*, or plains, of Colombia.

This duo has charisma, it has class, and it has talent to boot. And when they sing boleros together, the perfect blend of their harmonies will likely give you goosebumps.



DAWSON DAVENPORT

Dawson Davenport is a member of the Meskwaki Nation in Iowa. Dawson is a 2019 graduate of the University of Iowa's Art Program and the founder of the Indigenous Art Alliance, a nonprofit working to promote indigenous arts and artists. Dawson also created the Indigenous Peoples Art Gallery and Café in Iowa City, a space for indigenous artists to showcase their work. He is a painter, poet, graphic designer, and screen-printer as well as an event organizer. Dawson uses all forms of art to promote balance, which is inspired by his Meskwaki teachings. Dawson also has a clothing brand called Daepian, a lifestyle brand that promotes healthy living and social issues to inspire positive personal growth and development.



JAZMINE JOHNSON

Jazmine Johnson is originally from Troy, Alabama. She enjoys painting, volunteering, and learning different skills that help provide a well-rounded community for youth. Jazmine took art history and psychology at Simpson College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in art education. She has a diverse cultural background and believes in inclusive representation. Jazmine is a versatile artist and passionate educator.

FEATURED ARTISTS



JAMIE MALONE

Non-binary creator Jamie Malone graduated from Iowa State University in 2019 with a degree in biological and medical illustration. Their art is inspired by celestial bodies, music, Black creatives and the natural world. Jamie's current mediums of choice are wood-burning and digital illustration, but they are well versed in other forms of art as well. Learn more about Jamie's work on Instagram @artbyjmalone or online at thegoldhollow.com.

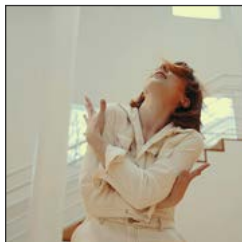


photo credit Sam Fathallah

MICHELLE MARIE

Michelle is a movement artist hailing from Illinois and residing in Iowa. She seeks to understand the impetus of movement – both within and beyond the confines of the body. Michelle studied modern dance at the University of Illinois, during which time she developed her improvisation practice under the tutelage of Kirstie Simson and Jason Finkelman. Michelle has danced professionally with companies across the country, such as Core Project Chicago and the Mark Morris Dance Group. She has also instructed at various institutions including the University of Illinois, Iowa State University, and the University of Kentucky. Since moving to Iowa, Michelle has completed the My Museum Monday program with the Des Moines Art Center and a residency with Art Beacon Des Moines. At its core, Michelle's work is investigative and intuitive. She aims to integrate internal and external environmental information into actualized, embodied experiences.

You can find Michelle at @ohmichelleyeah or at her ongoing project @onesecondances on Instagram.

PRESENTERS



BETTY C. ANDREWS

*President and CEO, Betty Andrews Media
State President, Iowa-Nebraska NAACP*

Betty C. Andrews is a registered lobbyist, trained parliamentarian, award-winning playwright, dynamic public speaker and consultant for strategic communication, historic preservation and civil rights advocacy. As president and CEO of Betty Andrews Media, she produces many community events, such as the annual festival I'll Make Me a World in Iowa, which brings together thousands of people to celebrate Iowa's African American arts and culture, and the Iowa Summit on Justice & Disparities, which addresses minority over-representation in the criminal justice system. In her role with the NAACP, Betty presides over 30 of the association's units in Iowa and Nebraska, has successfully negotiated several justice-reform laws and policies, and is widely considered the state's leading advocate for criminal justice reform.



TRISH BERGREN

*Iowa Cultural Coalition and Executive Director,
Clarinda Carnegie Art Museum*

Armed with a love of art and history, Bergren is executive director of the Carnegie Art Museum of Clarinda and is curator of the Page County Historical Museum. Trish also serves as the current president for the Iowa Cultural Coalition (ICC) and as a director of the Clarinda Community School District. In keeping with the ICC mission, she feels that Iowa is a place where the arts and culture industry inspires its citizens, strengthens communities, enhances educational achievement, celebrates its diversity, and is a catalyst for economic development. Advocacy is the key!



SCOTT CORNWELL & SUSAN PRICE

Creators, Smokestack

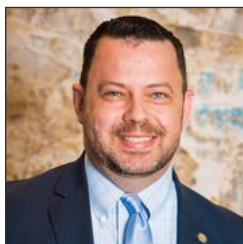
Scott Cornwell and Susan Price are the hands-on creators of [Smokestack](#), a three-story arts and culture venue in Dubuque that offers a range of art, entertainment and nightlife. The husband-and-wife team moved from New York City to Dubuque in 2013, prompted only by a brief visit six months earlier and the desire to save the historic Smokestack property. Bit by bit, they transformed the derelict warehouse into a recording studio and a popular destination for concerts, drag shows, art exhibitions, independent theater, rooftop raves, Latin Club Nights, bluegrass jams and much more. Susan's professional background is in history, event planning and fundraising, while Scott has worked as a musician, carpenter, general contractor and paramedic -- including a stint with the New York Fire Department during 9/11.

PRESENTERS



JULIANNE COUCH

Julianne Couch is a Bellevue-Iowa based writer and university lecturer. She's the author of three non-fiction books and one novel, mostly based on traveling and learning about overlooked people and places. She has been a board member and volunteer with the Bellevue Arts Council since moving to Bellevue in 2011.



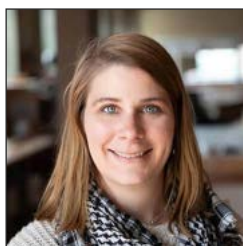
JAY DICK

*Senior Director of State and Local Government Affairs,
Americans for the Arts*

Jay Dick is the senior director of state and local government affairs at Americans for the Arts where he works to educate and inform elected officials about the value of the arts and culture. As a 25-year veteran of K Street, Capitol Hill, the private sector, and federal, state, and local campaigns, Jay possesses a tremendous body of knowledge in the field of arts policy, government, the legislative process, and grassroots advocacy. Jay is regularly interviewed by the media and policy makers.

Jay grew up in Colfax, Iowa, and received his BA in political science with a concentration in American history from Grinnell College in 1993.

Advocacy for the arts is his job but also his passion.



MICHAELA FREIBURGER

Program Specialist, Dubuque Main Street

In her role with Dubuque Main Street since 2016, Michaela Freiburger has worked with many community partners on events and other strategic community initiatives. From rejuvenating a community festival to filling vacant storefronts with small businesses, she has a passion to celebrate the vibrancy of her hometown and the Downtown Dubuque Cultural Corridor.

PRESENTERS



NANCY GEBHART

PhD Student, Social and Cultural Studies, School of Education, Iowa State University

Nancy Gebhart (she/her/hers) is a PhD student in social and cultural studies of education at Iowa State. Her research interests include studying the impact of arts experiences on critical thinking and cultural empathy as well as the intersection of art and social justice education. She has more than 15 years of professional experience in art museums, focused in museum education and contemporary art curation. From 2008 until 2018, she was the educator of visual literacy and learning at Iowa State University Museums and prior to that worked in St. Louis at the Saint Louis Art Museum and Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.



CASSANDRA HALLS

President, 2 THE TOP

Cassandra Halls founded 2 THE TOP in 2007, offering a wide variety of business consulting services to corporate, nonprofit, local government, colleges and universities. Areas of specialty include: strategic planning, project management, research services, training facilitation, succession planning and operations process improvements. Cassandra spent 10 years of her career in public administration in Iowa and has also served in the vice president role in both nonprofit and corporate operations. She utilizes her broad perspective to drive solutions to the challenges encountered in many work cultures and environments. She earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from William Penn University.



LINDA HARRISON

Director and CEO, Newark Museum of Art

Linda Harrison was appointed director and CEO of the Newark Museum of Art in 2018. She previously led the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco. She has more than 20 years of leadership experience in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors. She is a Getty Foundation Executive Leadership Institute Fellow, founded two San Francisco businesses, and worked as a vice president for Eastman Kodak, along with other Fortune 500 companies.

Her vision is to connect Newark and surrounding communities at the Newark Museum of Art by igniting diverse and inclusive conversations on race and culture through the arts and public programming.

PRESENTERS



DAVID R. KILPATRICK, PH.D.

Executive Director, Des Moines Community Playhouse

Since his arrival at the Des Moines Community Playhouse in 2017, David Kilpatrick has lead the playhouse's 100th anniversary celebration, a major construction project and several stage productions, including "Mamma Mia!" "Newsies" and, most recently, "Rounding Third" for the company's first live theatre drive-in. Previously, David was the executive director at a theater in La Crosse, Wisconsin, where he led a capital campaign and oversaw the construction of a brand-new building. His previous roles across the country have included producing artistic director, owner of a dinner theatre, director, lighting designer and professional stage manager.



LEON KUEHNER

*Iowa Cultural Coalition and Executive Director,
Iowa Alliance for Arts Education*

Leon Kuehner received both his bachelor's and master's degree in music education from the University of Northern Iowa. He has been president of the Iowa Bandmasters Association, state chair of the American School Band Directors Association, and state chair of the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education (IAAE). He has served on the Iowa Arts Standards Adoption Committee and currently serves on the Iowa Department of Education Fine Arts State Leadership Team. He is the co-administrator of the IAAE "Model of Excellence" mentorship program.

In July of 2013, he became the executive director of the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education. He is currently an adjunct teacher of music and music education for North Iowa Area Community College and the University of Iowa.



ADIA MORRIS SWANGER

Program Manager of Professional Development, Springboard for the Arts

At Springboard for the Arts, Adia Morris Swanger manages the Artist Career Consultant roster, teaches business skills workshops for artists, and connects artists to funding opportunities with the Incubator Fiscal Sponsorship program. She has worked as a freelance theatre artist, dancer, choreographer, writer, and educator in the Twin Cities for many years.

PRESENTERS



JASON NEISES

*Community Development Coordinator,
Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque*

Jason Neises works with rural communities in seven counties in northeast Iowa to implement Community Heart & Soul, a planning and development process designed to increase participation in local decision-making and empower residents to shape the future of their communities in a way that upholds the unique character of each place. The Dubuque native has spent most of his career working in adult education and nonprofits, including Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Chicago Architecture Foundation and the Peace Corps. He volunteers with the Dubuque County Historic Preservation Commission, Cub Scouts, Heritage Works, Dubuque Museum of Art, the Dubuque Winter Farmers' Market, and the Thomas Determan Global Perspectives Endowment. He lives on a small farm north of Dubuque with his wife and two boys.



OF/BY/FOR ALL

The OF/BY/FOR ALL approach starts with a simple equation: OF + BY = FOR. We believe that the most powerful way to become relevant FOR diverse communities is to become representative OF them and co-created BY them. Rather than guessing what an unfamiliar community might want or need, we encourage you to get to know that community. To spend time with that community. To listen and learn from them. And then, with community partners at the table, to figure out how you can most meaningfully work together to achieve each of your goals.



ERIKA OVERTURFF

Artistic Director & CEO, American Midwest Ballet

Erika Overturff is the founder of American Midwest Ballet, the region's professional ballet company. Under her leadership as artistic director and CEO, American Midwest Ballet enriches the area through an exciting array of professional dance performances and a strong commitment to education and outreach programming.

Erika earned her BFA in ballet on full scholarship from the University of Utah. She danced with Montgomery Ballet, Alabama Ballet, and Omaha Theater Ballet, performing principal and soloist roles in a wide range of classical and contemporary repertoire. Erika has served as répétitrice for Montgomery Ballet, resident choreographer for Omaha Theater Ballet, and choreographer for projects with Opera Omaha and Omaha Symphony. She regularly creates new works for American Midwest Ballet, and her production of *The Nutcracker* is an audience favorite at home and on tour.

PRESENTERS



MAURA PILCHER

Director, Grant Wood Art Colony, University of Iowa

Maura Pilcher has more than 15 years of experience in the museum industry, including work at the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., the Field Museum in Chicago, and the Snite Museum at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. An Iowa native, she returned to Cedar Rapids in 2008 to become the assistant director of Brucemore, where she helped the National Trust Historic Site recover from that year's historic flood. She helped launch the 2018 Grant Wood Symposium: Art in Public and created a public art residency for students at the University of Iowa, where she has helped students activate spaces in Iowa towns with sculptures, murals, and performances.



MICHELLE SPOHNHEIMER

Housing & Community Development Director, City of Marshalltown

Michelle Spohnheimer oversees many things for the City of Marshalltown: planning and zoning, code enforcement, building inspections, rental housing inspections, Section 8 housing, a grant to reduce hazards from lead-based paint and more. Michelle has also helped Marshalltown recover from the 2018 tornado, with FEMA assistance. She serves on the Region 6 Resource Partners Board and Region 6 Local Housing Trust Fund Board and has served on many local committees over the years. She has also secured more than \$26 million in grant dollars during her employment. On the side, she and her husband, Wayne, own Buzzed Bee Meadery and make mead (honey-wine).



JONNY STAX

Artist

Jonny Stax works as a multi-disciplinary artist, creative producer, and cultural equity strategist. He organizes creative forces to manifest more just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive (JEDI) worlds. For more than 20 years, Jonny has worked with local, regional, and national organizations to integrate creative practices into business, public health, arts, education, justice, and philanthropic efforts. He has produced immersive large and intimate events in music venues and clubs throughout Chicago, creating uniquely queer and inclusive experiences that incorporated spectacle, music, dance, puppetry, video, and circus skills. After growing up a queer, Southern Baptist pastors' kid in California, studying social work in Seattle, creating justice while living in New York City, Washington, DC, and Chicago, Jonny has finally settled in rural southeast Iowa. There, he is realizing a long-time dream to build an art farm for creatives to heal and renew while connecting with rural lands and people.

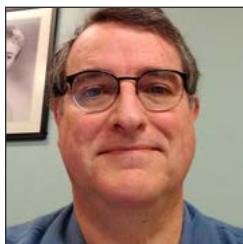
PRESENTERS



BEATRICE THOMAS

Artist/Consultant, Authentic Arts and Media

Beatrice Thomas is a multi-disciplinary artist, cultural strategist and creative producer with a specialty in equity, diversity and inclusion. Beatrice focuses on uplifting queer, transgender and POC voices, with special attention to creating queer-inclusive family programming. Mx. Thomas is a pillar of Drag Queen Story Hour and serves as director of the San Francisco Bay Area chapter and on the national organization's leadership team. Beatrice has performed at the deYoung Museum, SF PRIDE Mainstage, CounterPulse, SomArts Cultural Center and KALW Radio, and has exhibited her work in galleries across the United States. Beatrice also serves on the national board of directors for the Association of Performing Arts Professionals and has been named a Kennedy Center Citizen Artist for 2020.



BOB UNTIEDT

*Iowa Cultural Coalition and Executive Director,
Friends of Orpheum Theatre*

Bob Untiedt grew up in Davenport and nearby Durant, left Iowa in the 80s and returned home after doing mediation in the courts in Chicago and community organizing in Milwaukee, San Francisco, and Hollywood. He participates in the Iowa Cultural Coalition as the executive director of the Friends of the Orpheum Theater in Marshalltown.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

The Iowa Arts Council would like to thank the following sponsors and partners for their support of the 2020 Iowa Arts Summit.



Thank You John and Mary Pappajohn

SPECIAL ARTWORK CREDIT

Carol Faber, *Prairie Tapestry*,
Stone State Park

Created as part of the "20 Artists, 20 Parks" project, a collaboration between the Iowa Arts Council, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa State University to honor the centennial of Iowa's state parks in 2020.



ABOUT THE IOWA ARTS COUNCIL

The Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, empowers Iowans to build and sustain culturally vibrant communities by cultivating creativity, learning and participation in the arts.

Established in 1967, the Iowa Arts Council serves as Iowa's state arts agency and works in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts to build the capacity of Iowa's arts ecosystem. The Iowa Arts Council strives to create opportunities for the arts to flourish in Iowa by nurturing cultural leadership and investing in projects that provide access to arts experiences in communities and public spaces throughout Iowa.

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL STAFF

- **Lindsay Keast**, Arts Program Coordinator
- **Jennie Knoebel**, Arts Learning Manager
- **Veronica O'Hern**, Grant Services & Artist Programs Manager
- **David Schmitz**, Administrator
- **Montana Smith**, Arts Program Assistant

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS STAFF

The Iowa Arts Council thanks the following Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs staff for their support of the 2020 Iowa Arts Summit.

- **Dan Bolsem**, Digital Content Producer
- **Jennifer Cooley**, Education & Outreach Manager, State Historical Museum of Iowa
- **Jacque Hudson**, Graphic and Website Manager
- **Karen Hudson**, Finance and Accounting Manager
- **Susan Kloewer**, Administrator, State Historical Society of Iowa
- **Chris Kramer**, Director
- **Meg Lein**, Guest Services and Facility Manager
- **Emily McLain**, Project Manager
- **Michael Morain**, Communications Manager
- **Jeff Morgan**, Public Information Officer
- **EJ Philby**, Production Assistant, Produce Iowa
- **Jana Rieker**, Director of Strategic Initiatives

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Amber Danielson** (Marshalltown)
- **Braden Falline** (Spencer)
- **Kent Hartwig** (Des Moines)
- **Karen Hoyt** (Marion)
- **Mary Ellen Kimball** (Osceola)
- **Akwi Nji** (Cedar Rapids)
- **Frances Parrott** (Ames)
- **Brandon Paulsen** (Des Moines)
- **Claudia Rivera** (Hampton)
- **Jaron Rosien** (Washington)
- **Stephanie Shakhirev** (Hastings)
- **Frank Sposeto** (Collins)
- **Lisa Walsh** (Burlington)



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA **ARTS**
COUNCIL

PRODUCE
IOWA

STATE **HISTORICAL**
SOCIETY OF IOWA

@iowaartscouncil



For more information on the Iowa Arts Council, visit iowaculture.gov