Iowa Arts Council

Strategic Plan 2019-2021

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

The Iowa Arts Council is a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, along with the State Historical Society of Iowa, the State Historic Preservation Office, and Produce Iowa, the state office of film and media production. Together, these divisions strive to fulfill the following mission and vision:

Mission
We empower Iowans to build and sustain culturally vibrant communities by connecting to the people, places and points of pride that define our state.

Vision
Iowa is recognized as a state that fosters creativity and serves as a catalyst for innovation where the stories of Iowa are preserved and communicated to connect past, present and future generations.
IOWA ARTS COUNCIL MISSION

For more than 50 years, the Iowa Arts Council has worked to fulfill its mission

to help Iowans cultivate creativity, learning and participation in the arts.

1. Promote the social and economic value of the arts in Iowa.

   - Highlight the value and impact of the creative sector by celebrating the many ways arts and culture strengthen communities.
   - Empower Iowa's communities with consistent, data-driven resources that quantify the impact of the creative sector.
   - Raise the profile of local arts initiatives by providing statewide recognition that highlights best practices and local models.

2. Create more opportunities for the arts to thrive in Iowa through the strategic investment of grants and resources.

   - Collaborate with public officials and relevant stakeholders to develop funding opportunities for public investment in the arts.
   - Share best practices with artists, organizations and communities to encourage financial sustainability.
   - Expand our investments by leveraging our connections through strategic partnerships.
3 Provide learning opportunities that strengthen Iowa's creative sector.

- Amplify K-12 arts education and lifelong learning by collaborating with educator networks, local arts leaders and relevant community stakeholders.
- Develop capacity-building opportunities for Iowa artists, organizations and communities.
- Cultivate local, regional, statewide and national networks to encourage leadership and collaboration.
- Connect Iowans to high-quality expertise through industry resources and best practices.

4 Enhance access to the arts in Iowa.

- Engage rural Iowa to increase arts awareness and develop creative communities.
- Strengthen our commitment to diversity and inclusion through expanded outreach and promotion.
- Support folk and traditional arts by building a network of local advocates and resources.

5 Leverage cross-sector relationships to augment agency services to Iowans.

- Strengthen the department's internal communication to coordinate and enhance our programs.
- Activate the advisory board to expand the reach and efficacy of the agency.
- Foster strategic, cross-sector partnerships to develop creative communities.
Board of Directors – Fall 2018

Jennifer Brand
Huxley

Janine Calsbeek
Orange City

Amber Danielson
Marshalltown

Carmen Darland
Eldridge

Brittany Deal
Des Moines

Paul Dennison
Mount Pleasant

Braden Falline
Spencer

Kent Hartwig
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Evan Hilsabeck
Coralville

Randall Lengeling
Dubuque

Frances Parrott
Ames

Kenneth Sidey
Greenfield

Frank Sposeto
Collins

Terri Steinke
Urbandale

Lisa Walsh
Burlington

Iowa Arts Council Staff – Fall 2018

Chris Kramer
Acting Executive Director

Lindsay Keast
Program Coordinator

Jennie Knoebel
Arts Learning Manager

Veronica O’Hern
Grants Services and Artist Programs Manager

Liesl Voges
Community Development Manager

ARTIST FELLOWSHIP

Iowa Artist Fellow Molly Wood's photography focuses on botanical details.

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