



30
CONVERSATIONS

1,500
PARTICIPANTS

2,000
MILES

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

**COMMUNITY
CONVERSATIONS**



“WE HAVE TO WORK ON OUR PERCEPTION OF IOWA; IT’S A GREAT STATE AND IT’S PROGRESSIVE.” – Quad Cities Community Conversation

In July 2014, the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs convened community conversations across Iowa to elicit a vision for arts, history and culture based on the needs and wants of Iowans. Participants discussed what makes their communities vibrant, ways the DCA can serve as a resource for Iowans, and how this all might be shared in a revitalized State Historical Building of Iowa. After speaking with over 1,500 Iowans across 2,000 miles of the state, we can create a better plan to determine how to build and sustain culturally vibrant communities by connecting Iowans to the people, places and points of pride that define our state.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM IOWANS

CONNECTIVITY

Iowans want opportunities for residents, creative businesses, arts and cultural organizations, and others to network with each other and across the state. They are looking to the DCA to provide and facilitate opportunities to connect, communicate, and access resources.

AWARENESS

Promoting Iowa’s identity as a progressive, innovative and culturally healthy state that has much to offer is imperative for many Iowans. Iowa has too many “best kept secrets” and we need to ensure Iowans—and those outside our borders—are aware that Iowa and its communities are culturally vibrant and have much potential to seize.

SUSTAINABILITY

Capacity building and providing access to resources to ensure sustainability of Iowa’s art, heritage and cultural assets was a top priority for Iowans. Communities

want the DCA to help enable them so they can grow and thrive, implement long-term visioning with community buy-in, and identify ways to attract and retain young talent.

EDUCATION

Communities want access to creative learning experiences, especially for students related to arts in education and Iowa history. The DCA can enhance these innovative learning experiences, and continue to help build a 21st-century-skilled workforce.

CULTURAL CENTER FOR ALL IOWANS

Iowans want a State Historical Building of Iowa that is a cultural hub for the state, and a place that reflects all 99 counties. This cultural hub needs to be the core from which different aspects of our quality of life can stem.

