

CHRIS KRAMER, DIRECTOR

## **Iowa Arts Council Board of Directors Meeting**

Thursday, November 3, 2022  
10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

North Iowa Regional Commerce Center  
9 N Federal Ave  
Mason City, IA 50401

Video Conference Information

Join online: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83448005245>

Or join via telephone: 1-312-626-6799  
Meeting ID: 834 4800 5245

### **AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order**
  - A. Welcome
  - B. Roll Call
  - C. Review Meeting Agenda
- II. Approval of Minutes**
  - A. September 13, 2022
- III. Report from Chair**
- IV. Report from Department Director**
- V. Report from the Iowa Cultural Coalition**
- VI. Report from Division Administrator**
- VII. Board Discussion**
  - A. Creativity & Innovation Update
- VIII. Community Updates**
- IX. Public Comment**

*A public comment period will be held at 11:50 a.m. Advance notice to Board Administrator Sarah Florian ([sarah.florian@iowa.gov](mailto:sarah.florian@iowa.gov) or 515-281-5773) is encouraged, but all public comments will be heard.*
- X. Adjournment**

CHRIS KRAMER, DIRECTOR

## **Iowa Arts Council Board of Directors Meeting**

September 13, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

**Board Members Present:** Robin Anderson, Suzanne Conquest, Amber Danielson. Akwi Nji (arrived late), Frank Sposeto

**Board Members Present on Zoom/Phone:** Donna Dostal, Jennifer Dutcher, Michelle Hargrave, John Mayne, Andre Perry (arrived late), Jaron Rosien

**Board Members Absent:** Claudia Rivera

**Staff Present:** DCA Director Chris Kramer (Zoom); Arts Division Administrator David Schmitz; Program Manager Jon Berg; and Board Administrator Sarah Florian

**Guest(s) Present:** Karen Hoyt

### **Call to Order**

#### ***Welcome***

Danielson called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

### **Roll Call**

Florian called the roll and determined a quorum was present.

### **Review Meeting Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed. No changes were made.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Anderson moved to approve the June 9, 2022 Minutes. Sposeto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Nji and Perry were not present for this vote.

### **Report from Chair**

Danielson expressed gratitude for outgoing board members Brandon Paulsen and Karen Hoyt. Schmitz presented a gift to Karen in person to thank her for her service. Hoyt shared her gratitude for being a part of this board and looks forward to its continued success. Schmitz shared additional words of thanks for Hoyt's service to the board and shared memories of Hoyt over the years. Danielson shared that the next board meeting will be held on November 3, 2022 in Mason City. Additionally, we also do have a couple of board seats open, so board members are encouraged to reach out to interested parties to apply.

### **Report from Department Director**

Kramer echoed the gratitude for Hoyt's service to the Iowa Arts Council Board of Directors. We look forward to continued engagement with Hoyt into the future.

Kramer shared that various funding opportunities are available right now and many conversations have been happening. The Community Attraction and Tourism grant was previously funded at \$5 million level and now is

funded by the Iowa State Legislature at the \$10 million level. If you have questions about state grant opportunities or direct grants from the NEA or other national organizations, please let us know as we are here to support you. Additionally, the Department of Cultural Affairs received \$1 million in RIIF funds for the Iowa Great Places program, which has a grant round open currently. Kramer shared an update on the new Iowa Great Places and initiatives happening in each of those communities - Jefferson, Washington, Woodbine, and Oskaloosa. Kramer noted that the Iowa Great Places program is not only defined by a downtown area, but is inclusive of other areas of a community and is focused on creative placemaking. We are excited by the creative placemaking initiatives that are taking off across the state. Kramer also shared that Marion was one of the first Destination Iowa communities that has been funded, so they are a good example of this work. Kramer also noted that we are noticing more activity overall taking place in arts and culture. Kramer thanked Andre Perry for hosting a group from the Department recently in Iowa City. The Department was also in Iowa City for the Stanley Museum of Art opening after the flood 14 years ago. The Department recently announced our FY23 grant recipients, which included a couple of Greenlight Grants. Speaking of Greenlight Grants, Scott Siepker's 'Kinnick' was a Greenlight Grant recipient previously and is currently playing in theaters around the state. Kramer noted that we've shared our latest version of the strategic plan. October is National Arts and Humanities month, so we look forward to sharing your stories and celebrating this soon. Please let us know if you have stories for us to share during this time. In December, the Department of Cultural Affairs will again host the Celebrate Iowa Gala. It's a big celebration of arts, history and culture and we hope you will join us on Friday, December 9, 2022.

Kramer then noted the budgeting process for the upcoming, and shared that the Iowa Cultural Coalition has been working towards advocating for \$1 per Iowan for the arts.

Amber clarified when Marion joined the Iowa Great Places program, and noted that this program is such a catalyst to transforming communities. Hoyt, Schmitz and Anderson echoed additional support of the program.

Anderson asked for additional resources and talking points for the \$1 per Iowan for the arts. Kramer noted that Schmitz may have more to share on this as he has been in contact with the Iowa Cultural Coalition. Kramer also shared that the Iowa Arts Council Board of Directors can author a letter collectively or similar if that's the direction the Board wants to go. The Board can also have conversations with leaders if that's what you would like to do.

Danielson also reiterated that the Celebrate Iowa Gala is fun and encourages everyone to attend.

### **Report from Division Administrator**

Schmitz shared that Lesley Wright is the new board president of the Iowa Cultural Coalition. Schmitz attended the recent ICC retreat to prepare for the year ahead. Focuses of that retreat included clear messaging when speaking about the arts as well as funding conversations. Schmitz encouraged Robin to reach out to Wright directly and mentioned their website and social media channels. Additionally, Schmitz noted the ICC attended calls with every member of our Congressional delegation and they are making the case at the federal level as well.

The 2022 Iowa Arts Summit, held this past August, brought together creatives, nonprofit professionals and community leaders to learn and network both in person and virtually. In all, more than 300 artists, creative entrepreneurs, nonprofit leaders and arts advocates participated in this year's three-day event. Feedback has been positive. Additionally, Mainframe Studios, where the in person sessions of this year's Arts Summit were held, is a powerful example of how you can create a sustainable workspace for artists.

Schmitz shared that we have quarterly grants this year and we recently announced recipients from the August round. These are \$2500 matching grants for artists, schools and communities. We've seen a lot of first-time applicants as well as smaller and rural communities, which aligns with goals of these programs. We will have another round in November and funds may be depleted at this point. Kramer shared that these grants might not be the largest, but they often get a project started. Since March of 2020, the Department has given out more than 2,000 grants totalling more than \$22 million. Schmitz noted that this takes a large administrative lift and gave a shout out to Florian and the team for the operations work.

The Iowa Artist Fellowship welcomed its ninth class of fellows this year. This year's program kicks off with a retreat the first weekend of October, where the fellows and their invited artists learn from Strategic Planning Partners. Nji

noted that this program is really a catalyst for artists and their careers. Schmitz also shared that we are starting to think about the tenth anniversary year.

We are in a current Iowa Great Places funding cycle, so Berg is working through that process. Schmitz shared more about the process logistics for that program, including site visits and full application review by the IGP Board.

The Iowa Cultural Leadership Program is led by Jennie Knoebel and Michael Plummer and we have eleven organizations in this first cohort. This program was born out of the strategic plan feedback process. This program is a series of workshops and programming for this cohort of organizations, and we already starting to think about next year while running this pilot phase.

Schmitz shared that a new Folk And Traditional Arts opportunity will be shared in an upcoming Iowa Arts Council newsletter. The opportunity will be open to organizations that work with folk and traditional artists, culture bearers, and those that are working to preserve a longstanding cultural tradition to set up an apprenticeship program or learning opportunity in a school or nonprofit organization. This program is made possible by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

We are working towards the Fine Arts Education Summit in June 2023 and have gathered an advisory committee to move this forward. The ongoing focus of this event is interpretation and ideas for implementation of the Iowa Fine Arts Standards.

Schmitz noted the Iowa Arts Council opened up a call for nominations for the 2023 Governor's Arts Awards. Florian will be leading this effort this year. There are five award categories this year: Arts Service, Arts Learning, Emerging Arts Leader, Arts Legacy, and Arts Champion. Save the date for an in-person event to celebrate award recipients on March 1, 2023. More details to come. Schmitz asked each board member to think of 1-2 entities to nominate by November 1. Entities are able to self-nominate and we are accepting posthumous nominations as well. Florian will send out the nomination form after the meeting.

Keast is leading the Arts & Economic Prosperity (AEP) 6 Survey efforts. A total of ten (10) communities and regions are participating from Iowa, and these entities are taking part in data collection with organizations in their communities. Schmitz shared experience with this study while he was working in Dubuque.

Nji asked questions about summit attendance and Mainframe Studios partner organizations. Schmitz shared that we usually see 250-300 on average at Iowa Arts Summits. Schmitz also noted that Mainframe is working on satellite programs and shared that Creston High School is busing students to Mainframe Studios this fall for programming.

Danielson commented on the amount of work done by the Iowa Arts Council staff and the impact this work has in all sizes of communities across the state.

Schmitz shared an update that O'Hern left the organization in early September for a new position with Friends of the Earth. The Department is working through a plan now to fill that vacancy.

### **Board Discussion**

Danielson opened the floor for board discussion. Anderson noted that the board should consider passing a resolution or something similar to move the \$1 per lowan initiative forward. Anderson noted that she would be willing to lead this for the Board.

Nji shared she is consistently amazed by the integrity, professionalism, and sustainability of the programming coming out of the Iowa Arts Council and Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. Nji shared that O'Hern's departure was really emotional and her impact has been really important for so many artists. Nji noted that she has trust in the infrastructure in the Iowa Arts Council and Department of Cultural Affairs to keep this work going forward.

Danielson echoed that the Iowa Arts Council presence in communities and availability is noticed.

Anderson shared that the staff makes everyone feel like the favorite.

Nji asked about a calendar of events. Schmitz shared that a grantee list of events is available on the website. Schmitz noted that he will work to send more board updates with upcoming dates. Sposeto shared that pre-pandemic there were more communications regarding talking points and discussions. Schmitz noted that we can connect the Board with the Iowa Cultural Coalition in the coming months to do more of that.

### **Community Updates**

Board members gave updates from their communities, which included highlights from the arts and culture sector around the state.

### **Public Comment**

Danielson asked for public comment. No members of the public were present to comment.

### **Adjournment**

Danielson adjourned the regular meeting at 11:48 a.m.