

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL PRODUCE IOWA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

CHRIS KRAMER, DIRECTOR

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR
ADAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR

DocuSigned by:
Amber Danielson
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3/14/2023

Iowa Arts Council Board of Directors Meeting

November 3, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

Meeting location: Mason City

Board Members Present: Robin Anderson, Amber Danielson, Akwi Nji, Jaron Rosien

Board Members Present on Zoom/Phone: Suzanne Conquest (left early), Donna Dostal (arrived late, left early), Jennifer Dutcher, Michelle Hargrave, John Mayne, Claudia Rivera

Board Members Absent: Andre Perry, Frank Sposeto

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

Guest(s) Present: Lesley Wright (Zoom)

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.

Approval of Minutes

Anderson moved to approve the September 13, 2022 Minutes. Rosien seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Report from Chair

Danielson shared that the Celebrate Iowa Gala is on Friday, December 9 and encouraged board members to attend. Florian will send out additional information after the meeting about the event. Danielson also shared that the board will continue the conversation later on in this meeting about messaging around support for the arts looking toward the legislative session and the role the board can play at this time.

Report from Department Director

Kramer shared an update on the Iowa artists that will be featured at the Celebrate Iowa Gala as well as other event details. Kramer shared updates on the State Historical Building renovations, including the atrium reopening as of the date of this meeting as well as upcoming milestones in the process. Additionally, Kramer shared an update on the education materials and opportunities available through the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, with an emphasis on the Iowa History educator resources and the recent milestone of over 3 million downloads of Iowa History education materials. The department continues to serve the state in a leadership role in this space and shares best practices. Kramer also shared that we have eleven organizations participating in our Iowa Culture Leadership Cohort that started a month ago.

Kramer also shared that October was Arts and Humanities month, which we kicked off in the Iowa Great Place of Winterset celebrating George Stout's 125th anniversary of birth. Stout did great work in art restoration and helped develop many of the policies that museum collectors use today. Kramer also shared that we've opened the Humanities Collaboration Grant and provided an overview at this stage and the creation of this grant opportunity. Kramer shared an update on recent statewide visits from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs to connect with communities and learn about project updates. Berg is currently working on an Iowa Great Places grant round and assisting applicants throughout the process. Kramer shared that Liz Gilman and Kramer toured Renovo studios during this visit and provided an update on Produce Iowa efforts. Kramer shared Preserve Iowa Summit updates, which included noting that the next summit will be held in Sioux City, as well as noting the Iowa Arts Council team is working towards an Iowa Fine Arts Education Summit in June, which will include creativity and innovation programming the day prior to the summit.

At the end of her report, Director Kramer honored Board Member Robin Anderson for her service and leadership over the years and presented Anderson with a gift of appreciation. Schmitz shared that the work presented is from an Iowa artist based in Ames. Anderson expressed her gratitude and well wishes for the board. Danielson thanked Anderson for the tour coordination.

Report from Iowa Cultural Coalition

Wright shared an overview of the Iowa Cultural Coalition (ICC) and noted that the key messaging points in their work currently is that arts and culture are key to attracting and retaining top talent, driving economic development and building strong communities. Wright shared that last year the ICC produced a public investment in the arts and culture report, using data from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. This report was sent out and is accessible to the public on the ICC's website. Wright shared the ICC is working on the report for this year now. The ICC is working towards more in person interaction moving forward and are sending out action alerts as things are happening. Wright gave a brief overview of the activity at the federal level. Wright shared an overview of the goals from the new ICC strategic plan that was passed in October, which includes increased awareness and goal alignment with stakeholders. Wright shared possible action items for board members to get involved and also mentioned a save the date for March 1, which is the date for a Iowa Cultural Coalition legislative breakfast at the Statehouse. Kramer shared additional information on the federal appropriations conversation and as well as direct grants from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Report from Division Administrator

Schmitz shared an update from Detroit, Michigan, where he was attending Arts Midwest's Fall Summit, a bi-annual meeting of the eight state arts councils that are part of the Arts Midwest region. Schmitz thanked Wright and Anderson for their leadership in their respective areas, highlighted recent board contributions on various grant panels, and thanked Danielson for her work on the monthly local arts leaders calls.

Schmitz gave an update on the Iowa Arts Council staff's attendance at the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies biennial conference in Kansas City. Schmitz added that IAC staff were engaged in various professional development sessions leading up to, and during, the conference. Schmitz shared that October was a busy month for capacity building and career development programs with the Iowa Artist Fellowship Retreat and the Iowa Cultural Leadership Cohort, including an update of both programs.

Schmitz shared program highlights including updates from recent Iowa Great Places project site visits this fall. Berg shared that we are in the middle of a funding cycle for Iowa Great Places and we've been trying to be more involved and support applicants throughout this process. Berg also noted that the Iowa Great Places designation is now a ten-year designation, which will hopefully support more long-term development. Florian shared that we have received 82 nominations for the Governor's Arts Awards this year and extended gratitude to the board for their efforts in getting the word out about the nomination process. Schmitz shared that we hope to notify award recipients by early January and will celebrate them at the Governor's Arts Award event on March 1.

Schmitz noted Iowa Arts Council staffing updates, which includes Florian moving into the Grants and Operations Manager position and EJ Philby moving into the Arts, Film and Media Coordinator position. Kramer shared that the department has awarded more than 2,000 grants for more than \$22 million dollars over the last couple of years with the recent one-time funding, which was a large lift for the staff. Kramer also shared she believes the Iowa Arts

Council is well positioned for the future with great leaders on the team. Kramer also shared that Michael Morain will depart the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs in January 2023 for a new role with Business Publications. Kramer also shared that IEDA is launching a grant program for private and small businesses that will include arts and culture.

Schmitz also shared some photos from events happening statewide during Arts and Humanities month.

Board Discussion

Schmitz set context for the board discussion centered around the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request. Schmitz noted this is more a first draft at this stage and also shared this is the first time Kramer and Schmitz have presented on the FY 2024 Budget Request. The presentation included information on the following topics: statewide needs, what's working in rural Iowa, what's working in Iowa's metros, Iowa's Creative Sector, where Iowa ranks and the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request summary, which includes the Create in Iowa initiative, as well as key points.

Rosien asked a question about the history of budget requests. Schmitz shared that the Iowa Arts Council has not had an increase in its base appropriation in more than a decade, which includes a lack of adjustments for inflation and cost of business. Kramer noted that the only increase in the IAC's appropriation during that period was a separate \$300,000 line item for the film office and \$100,000 for Greenlight Grants in FY19. Kramer noted that the Iowa Arts Council runs other grant programs that are not in the baseline, such as Iowa Great Places project funding and the Strengthening Communities program. Kramer clarified the budget request process, using the Greenlight Grant example from the previous fiscal year.

The presentation also includes an overview of the Create in Iowa initiative, which included the following topics: Iowa grows with creativity, shared mission, statewide Creativity & Innovation Task Force, shared priorities of workforce, education and social infrastructure, as well as goals within these priorities. Schmitz shared the goals within the workforce shared priority. Kramer shared the goals and additional context within the education shared priority with a focus on creativity and innovation. Schmitz shared additional details about the Iowa Fine Arts Education summit, scheduled for June 12-13, 2023. There will be a pre-conference session focused on creativity and innovation.

Danielson asked what the board's role is in supporting this initiative and continuing this work. Schmitz shared the timeline for the budget request process at this point and what the board can do in relation to the budget request. Schmitz also shared that the hope is this message can be evergreen and used into the future. Danielson opened up the meeting for input and feedback from the board. Anderson asked about any early feedback from the Governor's office at this stage. Kramer shared that this has been submitted along with other requests for the Department. Kramer also noted that there typically is a meeting with the Governor to present this request. Kramer also shared possible next steps for the board, if the board so chooses. Rosien shared that the legislature will have more freshman senators and representatives than in several decades he believes, so this could be an advantage with this request. Hargrave expressed her thanks for this work and efforts. Mayne asked if there were specific legislators to reach out to for this request. Anderson mentioned Speaker Pat Grassley would be someone to reach out to. Schmitz shared that this board can work with the Iowa Cultural Coalition in these efforts, if they so choose. Schmitz noted that the Iowa Arts Council can assist with information requests, if needed. Kramer shared additional senators, representatives and other leaders to reach out to in various communities. Hargrave asked about whether it would be beneficial or not to hire a lobbyist, or if organizations around the state should do this work. The discussion in the room was about shared messaging at this point. Wright shared this was part of the Iowa Cultural Coalition's long term plan. Dostal asked if there is a particular committee to focus these efforts towards. Anderson shared that economic development would be the committee to focus on; she also shared her insight on hiring a lobbyist. Rosien shared his thoughts on connecting with staffers as well. Schmitz shared that relationships and demonstrated impact are important.

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 public comment. Danielson mentioned the next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 1.

Adjournment

Danielson adjourned the regular meeting at 11:57 a.m.