

**Weekly News
8/14/09**

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Surprise Announcement

Governor Culver's Office has asked us to extend to you a very special invitation. The Governor will be making a SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT regarding GRANT WOOD on Friday August 21 at 11:30. The revelation will take place at the residence of Jim Hayes: 1142 E Court Street in Iowa City. How's that for mysterious??

Arts in Education

Please see the attached letter, forwarded to us from Larry Brandstetter, from the Office of the Secretary of Education.

Lt. Governor Continues Her Travels

Lt. Governor Patty Judge is traveling Iowa this summer. She has a really fun blog where you can read about and see pictures of her trips at www.traveliowa.blogspot.com. She is at the State Fair next week. If you can, take time to stop in to meet her and express your support of arts, history and culture.

Lots of Information from the Iowa Tourism Office

The next few items come from the Iowa Tourism Office's E-Traveler Newsletter

Thursday (August 13) marks the start of State Fair Time! Visitors to the Iowa Tourism Office exhibit in the south atrium of the Varied Industries Building can enter to win a \$150 gift card from Choice Hotels each day. (People can also register on www.traveliowa.com during the Fair.)

Tourism Award nominations [<http://www.traveliowa.com/travelindustryinformation.aspx>] are now being accepted. Self-nominations are accepted and encouraged. (Who knows your attraction, community or event better than you?) Deadline is Friday, September 4. Contact Jessica O'Riley at jessica.oriley@iowalifechanging.com or 515.725.3085 with questions.

The Iowa Arts Council is accepting applications for two grant programs that support arts education, Character Counts!, and teaching and performing artists.

Big Yellow School Bus (BYSB) grants serve pre-K through grade 12 students in Iowa public and private schools, providing up to \$200 to underwrite the cost of field trips to attend arts events such as live music, dance or theater performances and exhibits at art museums.

EZ 1-2-3 grants provide up to \$500 to help educators and organizations bring Iowa artists into schools, theaters, festivals and auditoriums for hands-on learning opportunities, performances and Character Counts! programs.

There is no application deadline for BYSB or EZ 1-2-3 grants. Applications are reviewed on a "first-received, first-funded" basis until available funds are depleted. IAC's BYSB budget is \$36,000 and its EZ 1-2-3 budget is \$35,000 for fiscal year 2010.

Applications may be submitted to the Iowa Arts Council, 600 E. Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319. Applications, eligibility requirements and additional information are available at www.iowaartscouncil.org.

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REMINDER: Online registration

[\[http://www.traveliowa.com/travelindustryinformation.aspx\]](http://www.traveliowa.com/travelindustryinformation.aspx) for the Iowa Tourism Conference is available. Space is limited in some breakout sessions; slots will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis. The Conference is set for Wednesday, October 21, through Friday, October 23, at Meskawki Bingo Casino Hotel in Tama.

Our Listserv

In an effort to make your Regional Captains' jobs easier, we've established a CHAT listserv. This will make it easier for us to send things like the CHAT Weekly News and legislative updates directly to the CHAT Teams.

To join, please go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and search for Iowa_CHAT. You'll see our logo there☺ There is an easy sign in process. You are required to create a yahoo account (if you don't have one) but can then ***select your primary email account*** as the way you want to share information. Please consider joining.

Upcoming meetings

Please let deirdre.giesler@iowa.gov know if you've scheduled your next regional CHAT meeting. We'll announce it in the CHAT Weekly News!

Wow Moment

Wow. I am so glad we have a strong advocacy base for the arts, history, and culture in Iowa. Here are some statistics about the state of the arts across the Midwest. We could have it so much worse than we do. This information comes from the Arts Midwest quarterly newsletter:

The table below provides an overview of the [budget] news we [Arts Midwest] have received from our nine member state agencies as this newsletter was finalized.

IA	Down 9.79% from last year
IL	Down 67% from last year
IN	Down 20% from approved levels for last year
MI	No budget presented yet; Governor’s rec. effectively does away with the agency
MN	Down 16% in general fund from last biennium; will begin receiving a projected \$43.3M from Legacy Amendment funding after Jan 2010
ND	Up 17% from last biennium
OH	No budget yet; rec. is down 50% from last biennium (already down 20% from prior biennium)
SD	Level with last year (after defeating an effort to zero their budget out)
WI	Total budget reduction of 6.5%, wage rollback 2%, 16 furlough days

Have a great week!

--Deirdre