

**Weekly News  
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## **What We Do For YOU! News from the Dept. of Cultural Affairs**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug. 26, 2009**

**Contact:** Jeff Morgan, 515-281-3858

# **Historic preservation workshops Sept. 17-18 in Muscatine**

**DES MOINES** – The State Historic Preservation Office, in partnership with the Louisa County and Muscatine historic preservation commissions, will offer two days of historic preservation workshops Sept. 17-18, 2009, in Muscatine.

The first day features “Historic Preservation Basics,” to introduce programs, funding, financial incentives and resources for people interested in preserving historic properties. The workshop begins at 2 p.m. and there is no cost to attend.

The second day focuses on getting properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. State Historical Society of Iowa staff will help participants understand the process and meaning of being listed on the National Register, guide them in researching a historic property and clarify questions on the registration form. The workshop begins at 9 a.m. and the registration fee is \$35. Reservations are requested by contacting Kathy Gourley at [kathy.gourley@iowa.gov](mailto:kathy.gourley@iowa.gov) by Sept. 1, 2009.

The workshops will be at the Pearl City Station, 100 Harbor Drive in Muscatine.

Staff will also be available for 20-minute one-on-one technical assistance sessions for personalized discussion of specific projects. Property owners should bring photos, drawings and other documentation so staff members can fully understand the property. Appointments must be scheduled in advance and should be noted on the workshop registration form.

For more information and registration form, visit [www.iowahistory.org](http://www.iowahistory.org).

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug. 27, 2009**

**Contact:** Jeff Morgan, 515-281-3858

## **Artist Jaume Plensa to speak at public art conference in November**

*Plensa’s “Nomade” anchors John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park*

**DES MOINES** – The Iowa Arts Council and the Des Moines Art Center will host the 2009 Iowa Public Art Networking Conference this November to celebrate the opening of the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park in Des Moines.

The two-day conference, supported by the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, will be Nov. 12-13, 2009, at various locations in Des Moines. The conference fee is \$44.50, or \$60 after Nov. 1, 2009, through [www.iowatix.com](http://www.iowatix.com). A conference brochure is available at [www.iowaartscouncil.org](http://www.iowaartscouncil.org).

The conference begins at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009, at Hoyt Sherman Place Theatre, 1501 Woodland Avenue in Des Moines, with the Des Moines Art Center Fingerman Lecture featuring artist Jaume Plensa, who has produced projects all over the world including the "Crown Fountain" for Chicago's Millennium Park and "Nomade," which anchors the southern side of the Pappajohn Sculpture Park

During his presentation, Plensa will discuss his body of work and share his approach to making art for public spaces. The lecture is the 21st in the series made possible through generous gifts by Louis and Lois Fingerman.

The conference continues 9:15 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13, 2009, at the Des Moines Public Library, 1000 Grand Avenue in Des Moines, for an introduction and walking tour of the Pappajohn Sculpture Park. Plensa and Des Moines Art Center docents will lead the tour.

After visiting the Temple for Performing Arts for lunch and a presentation about public art projects completed during 2008-2009, participants will return to the Des Moines Central Library for panel discussions about "Sculpture Parks" and "Establishing and Maintaining a Public Art Program and Master Plan." The conference concludes with a reception at Art 316 Open House, 316 SW 5th Street in Des Moines.

The 4.4-acre John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park opens to the public Sept. 29, 2009, in downtown Des Moines' Western Gateway Park. The park is located within a major crossroads of the urban grid, making it unlike any other sculpture park in the United States, and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of the surrounding neighborhood.

The Pappajohns' contribution of 24 works for the park is the most significant donation of artwork ever made to the Des Moines Art Center and includes sculptures by Louise Bourgeois, Deborah Butterfield, William de Kooning, Ellsworth Kelly, Martin Puryear and Richard Serra, among others.

The project is a collaborative effort of the Pappajohns, the City of Des Moines, the Des Moines Art Center, and numerous corporate and private supporters.

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**Contact:** Jeff Morgan, 515-281-3858

## **DCA announces six finalists for 2009 Iowa Great Places program**

*Site visits scheduled for September; Iowa's next Great Places to be named in October*

**DES MOINES** – The Department of Cultural Affairs today announced six Iowa communities have been named finalists for the 2009 Iowa Great Places program.

The Iowa Great Places Citizen Advisory Board and DCA staff will conduct site visits Sept. 29-30, 2009, to the Cedar Valley Alliance (Cedar Falls/Evansdale/Waterloo), Iowa City/Coralville/North Liberty, Marion, Tama

County, the Turkey River Corridor and the Villages of Van Buren County to assess the readiness of each place to move forward. This year's Iowa Great Places will be announced Oct. 16, 2009, in Des Moines.

Now in its fifth year, Iowa Great Places encourages communities to work together to achieve a better quality of life for its citizens. The program combines state resources with local assets to build capacity in communities, regions, neighborhoods or districts that cultivate their unique and authentic qualities.

In developing their proposals, Iowans were asked to address seven unique and authentic dimensions that make places special: engaging experiences; rich, diverse populations and cultures; a vital, creative economy; clean and accessible natural and built environments; well-designed infrastructure; a shared attitude of optimism that welcomes new ideas; and a diverse and inclusive cultural mosaic.

Following are summaries of each community's proposal:

### **Cedar Valley Alliance**

The Cedar Valley Alliance consists of Cedar Falls, Evansdale and Waterloo. Its proposal focuses on strengthening the Cedar Valley community's relationship with the Cedar River; increasing the public's use and enjoyment of the Cedar River and its watershed; and enhancing its environmental health, cultural heritage, recreational features and economic opportunities.

### **Iowa City/Coralville/North Liberty**

Iowa City/Coralville/North Liberty incorporates three communities with a vision focusing on literature. Iowa City became part of the Creative Cities Network when it was named a City of Literature in November 2008 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Iowa City is the third city in the world to receive this recognition, joining Edinburgh, Scotland, and Melbourne, Australia. Its proposal develops and supports the "UNESCO City of Literature" brand for Iowa City and surrounding communities. The proposal also envisions a development called the Stories Project, a substantial physical interpretative center on 25 former Brownfield acres near the Iowa River that will be dedicated to language, literature and literacy.

### **Marion**

The City of Marion has developed a community-wide visioning process called Imagine 8. This process solicited more than 1,800 responses from area residents to develop a clear picture of the community's direction. Eight ideas were selected from the 1,800 ideas submitted by respondents. "All Trails Lead to Marion" focuses on Marion Square Park as the center of community and recreational trails, parks, amphitheatre and public art, connecting many of the Great 8 ideas to a seamless destination point for residents and visitors alike.

### **Tama County**

Tama County and its 12 towns submitted a proposal that focuses on its Native American heritage with the theme "Feeding the Spirit." This culturally diverse county proposes expansion of Otter Creek Lake and Park; restoration of historical museums and the Weiting Opera House; and the development of the Meskwaki Cultural Center & Museum to enhance the cultural, economic and workforce environment of the county.

### **Turkey River Corridor**

The Turkey River Corridor is a unique application for Great Places. Three towns – Clermont, Elgin and Elkader – and two counties – Clayton and Fayette – have joined together to submit a regional application. All three towns are connected by 114 miles of the Turkey River. Their vision is to collaborate, develop and enhance the existing natural resources flowing from the Turkey River through the creation of land and water trails that will serve as a catalyst for economic growth and development in Northeast Iowa.

### **Villages of Van Buren County**

The Villages of Van Buren County is a place that encourages visitors to slow down, relax and embrace a more leisurely pace. The proposal calls for developing a Villages Folk School to offer learning experiences in traditional arts, such as pottery, fine arts, spinning, weaving and sculpting within the unique surroundings of each village. The county would be the “campus,” with more than 42 classes offered to adults, parents, children and their families. The goal is to connect the “inner child” often lost in the hustle and bustle of modern-day life.

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## **2010 Dozen Distinctive Destinations**

From the National Trust for Historic Preservation

If you are thinking about encouraging a community in your region to apply for the 2010 Dozen Distinctive Destinations, now is the time! By popular demand, the deadline has been extended to **September 10, 2009**.

The **Dozen Distinctive Destinations** program recognizes unique cities and towns across America that are working to preserve their historic character, promote heritage tourism, enhance their community and encourage others to enjoy all they have to offer. Each year since 2000, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has selected 12 destinations that offer an authentic visitor experience by combining dynamic downtowns, diverse cultural activities, attractive architecture and a strong commitment to historic preservation, sustainability and revitalization.

Visit [www.PreservationNation.org/ddd](http://www.PreservationNation.org/ddd) to learn more and apply today!

## **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](http://www.traveliowa.blogspot.com). She's in Forest City, Northwood, St. Ansgar, Riceville, Nashua, Waverly, Oelwein, Independence, Manchester and Cedar Rapids next week. If you can, take time to stop in to meet her and express your support of arts, history and culture.

## **Wednesday, September 2**

9:45 a.m.      Winnebago Industries Visitors Center  
1045 S. Fourth St.  
Forest City  
[www.winnebagoind.com](http://www.winnebagoind.com)

11: 15 a.m.    Top of Iowa Welcome Center  
4705 Wheelerwood Rd.

Northwood  
[topofiowa.com](http://topofiowa.com)

12:45 p.m. Lunch at Blue Belle Inn B&B  
513 W Fourth St.  
St. Ansgar  
[www.bluebelleinn.com](http://www.bluebelleinn.com)

2:30 p.m. Wapsi-Great Western Line Trail  
110 East Main  
Riceville  
[wgltrail.com](http://wgltrail.com)

4:15 p.m. Little Brown Church  
2730 Cheyenne Avenue  
Nashua  
[www.littlebrownchurch.org](http://www.littlebrownchurch.org)

### **Thursday, September 3**

8 a.m. The Waverly House/Bremer County Historical Society Museum  
402 W. Bremer Ave.  
Waverly  
[www.waverlyia.com](http://www.waverlyia.com)

9:45 a.m. Oelwein Public Library/streetscape project  
201 E. Charles  
Oelwein  
[www.oelwein.com](http://www.oelwein.com)

11 a.m. Heartland Acres Agribition Center  
2600 Swan Lake Blvd.  
Independence  
[heartlandacresusa.com](http://heartlandacresusa.com)

1:15 p.m. Manchester State Trout Hatchery  
22693 205th Ave  
Manchester  
[www.iowadnr.gov/fish/programs/hatchery/manchest.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/fish/programs/hatchery/manchest.html)

3:15 p.m. Cedar Rapids Museum of Art  
410 Third Ave SE  
Cedar Rapids  
[www.crma.org](http://www.crma.org)

## Fine Arts Insurance Seminar

*This information comes to us through the IMA listserv*

The Iowa Registrars Committee is hosting a seminar about fine arts insurance, October 23 at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art (CRMA). Cost for the seminar is \$15 for museum folks and \$8 for students (cost includes all materials, lunch and refreshments). Two \$50 travel stipends are available. Sponsors include the Midwest Registrars Committee, CRMA, and Robertson Taylor International Insurance Brokers. A pdf of the registration form is attached and it includes a detailed schedule of the day and information about how to apply for a travel stipend. Questions? Feel free to contact Jennifer Kovarik ([jkovarik@vesterheim.org](mailto:jkovarik@vesterheim.org)), or Teri Van Dorston ([tvandorston@crma.org](mailto:tvandorston@crma.org)).

Registration form attached.

## Our Growing Listserv!

You guys are doing a great job of signing up for our listserv! We are plugging along, slowly but surely following the Yahoo rules of inviting *only 50 people per day*. We'll get to your name eventually, or you can follow the simple directions below.

**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

### CHAT 11 Upcoming Meeting

Hi Fellow CHAT Members:

You are all invited to King's Canyon Fine Arts in Osceola for our September 22nd meeting at 7:00 p.m. We are located on the north side of the square at 119 West Washington, just around the corner from Redman's (where we met for our first meeting). We will be serving soup and chili with cornbread, and brownies for desert. A free will donation will be collected at the time of the meal. Please RSVP Sara at 641-342-4477 or email [sking@inbox.com](mailto:sking@inbox.com) so I know how much to make and how many chairs to round up. I know this is a busy time for everyone, but please plan on attending this meeting because it is important to the cultural programs you represent. We made some great headway during our last meeting surrounding thoughts on a 2010 events calendar for CHAT 11. We will be collecting lists of cultural events and possibly art work from each county for the calendars at this meeting. If you cannot make this meeting, PLEASE email me yours and other cultural events for the calendar asap. Thank you so much for your help, time and interest! ---Sara King

Please let [deirdre.giesler@iowa.gov](mailto: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! Can you guess what I found this week? A great site for advocates of the Social Studies. For everyone lamenting the lack of history, civics, and related courses in your local schools, check this out: <http://www.socialstudies.org/toolkit>. There's some good stuff here.

Have a great week!

--Deirdre