

**Weekly News  
10/02/09**

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

### DCA announces six new Iowa Great Places

*Greater Cedar Valley Alliance; Iowa City/Coralville/North Liberty; Marion; Tama County; Turkey River Corridor; and Van Buren County*

**DES MOINES** – The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs today announced six Iowa communities have been selected to join the Iowa Great Places program.

Iowa's six new Great Places include:

Greater Cedar Valley Alliance (Cedar Falls/Evansdale/Waterloo)  
Iowa City/Coralville/North Liberty  
Marion  
Tama County  
Turkey River Corridor (Clermont/Elgin/Elkader)  
Villages of Van Buren County

The Iowa Great Places Citizen Advisory Board reviewed proposals in August, conducted site visits this week and determined the six communities are ready to move into the program.

“The Iowa Great Places program asks Iowans to work together to develop a vision for the future of their communities,” DCA Director Cyndi Pederson said. “In the next few months, our staff will be working with each of these communities to finalize work plans and draft memorandums of understanding that will make them full partners with the state.”

Now in its fifth year, Iowa Great Places 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 are 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.

The program calls for the state to work in partnership with each Great Place to identify existing grant programs and technical assistance that may be applicable to projects contained in their work plans.

The six communities announced today will be formally identified as Iowa's newest Great Places Oct. 16, 2009, at the State Historical Building, 600 E. Locust Street in Des Moines.

More information about the program and Iowa's other Great Places is available at [www.iowagreatplaces.gov](http://www.iowagreatplaces.gov). Following are summaries of each community's proposal:

### **Greater Cedar Valley Alliance**

The Greater 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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## **IAC’s Teaching, Performing Artist Roster applications due Nov. 2**

**DES MOINES** – The deadline for individuals and groups to apply to be on the Iowa Arts Council’s Teaching and Performing Artist Roster is 4:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 2, 2009.

Applications and all supporting materials must be received in the IAC office at the State Historical Building, 600 E. Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 by the deadline. Applications and guideline information are available at [www.iowaartscouncil.org](http://www.iowaartscouncil.org) or by contacting Sarah Ekstrand at [sarah.ekstrand@iowa.gov](mailto:sarah.ekstrand@iowa.gov). Auditions and interviews will be conducted Dec. 2, 2009, at the State Historical Building in Des Moines.

“IAC-rostered artists receive several benefits,” IAC Administrator Mary Sundet Jones said. “Grant programs require applicants to work with an artist from one of our rosters, and these resources are used by schools, community groups and presenting organizations all over the state. We also encourage rostered artists to use the designation to market their services.”

Individuals and groups on the Performing Artist Roster are excellent and experienced artists available to communities, schools and other venues. Applicants for IAC grants often look first to this roster when seeking performing artists.

The Teaching Artist Roster identifies artists who are pre-approved to work in Artists in Schools & Communities (AISC), a program funded by IAC Major and Mini Grants that brings professional teaching artists into Iowa schools and communities, residencies and other arts education activities.

In addition, applicants for IAC’s EZ 1-2-3 Grants must work with an artist from IAC rosters.

More information is available at [www.iowaartscouncil.org](http://www.iowaartscouncil.org) or by contacting Sarah Ekstrand at [sarah.ekstrand@iowa.gov](mailto:sarah.ekstrand@iowa.gov) or 515-281-4657.

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## **IAC staff visits Spirit Lake and Red Oak in October**

*Sign up now for one-on-one meetings and grant writing workshops*

**DES MOINES** – Iowa Arts Council staff will hold office hours and offer grant writing workshops in Spirit Lake and Red Oak next month for local artists, arts organizations and educators.

During “Office on the Road” office hours, IAC staff will visit one-on-one with constituents about current and future projects. The workshops will cover the grant application process, funding priorities and guidelines, and tips for writing grants. Attendees will also participate in a mock panel review of actual grants submitted to IAC.

“We know constituents need time to visit with our staff about grant programs and procedures, and we are very eager to meet with them,” IAC Administrator Mary Sundet Jones said. “These meetings and the workshop also gives our staff an opportunity to learn how Iowa artists and arts organizations are dealing with the current economy and how we can help.”

Workshops are open to artists, educators, or staff from arts and other community organizations who want to develop new arts projects.

“Participants can expect to finish the workshops with a much clearer understanding of how to write Arts Council grants,” Jones said. “They will be able to work through the process with our staff and ask questions along the way.”

Following is IAC’s “Office on the Road” and grant writing workshop schedule in October:

### **Spirit Lake**

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009

Black Box Theatre

SAMI Center in Spirit Lake

9 a.m.-noon, office hours; contact Staci Nevinski at 515-281-3293 or [staci.nevinski@iowa.gov](mailto:staci.nevinski@iowa.gov) to schedule an appointment.

1-4 p.m. grant writing workshop; visit [www.iowaartscouncil.org](http://www.iowaartscouncil.org) for registration information.

### **Red Oak**

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009

Performing Arts and Education Association of Southwest Iowa

300 Commerce Drive in Red Oak

8 a.m.-noon, office hours; contact Sarah Ekstrand at 515-281-4657 or [sarah.ekstrand@iowa.gov](mailto:sarah.ekstrand@iowa.gov) to schedule an appointment.

1-4 p.m. grant writing workshop; visit [www.iowaartscouncil.org](http://www.iowaartscouncil.org) for registration information.

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## **WHTC explores African American history in Iowa**

*African American Museum of Iowa's lecture series continues Oct. 11*

**COUNCIL BLUFFS** – The Western Historic Trails Center will explore African American history in Iowa next month as part of a lecture series presented by the African American Museum of Iowa.

Hemie Collier will discuss the life of George Washington Carver at 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 11, 2009, at WHTC, 3434 Downing Avenue in Council Bluffs. The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 712-366-4900 for more information.

The lecture is part of the African American Museum of Iowa's "Experiencing Black Iowa" lecture series, which is designed to engage southwestern Iowa in the heritage of African American history in Iowa. Supported by the Iowa West Foundation, the series covers several topics such as agriculture, athletics and military.

Collier is the Central/Western Iowa Coordinator at the African American Museum of Iowa. He is a 2007 graduate of Luther College with a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in History and Africana Studies.

The remaining "Experiencing Black Iowa" lecture series schedule at WHTC is below:

Nov. 8: Tuskegee Airman

Dec. 13: Kwanzaa

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## **Association of Performing Arts Presenters Accepting Applications for Cultural Exchange Fund Travel Grants**

[Association of Performing Arts Presenters Accepting Applications for Cultural Exchange Fund Travel Grants](#)

Grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to U.S.-based individual presenters and groups traveling to see the work of artists or companies abroad, and/or to develop partnerships with them....

**Deadline:** November 16, 2009

**Posted:** September 30, 2009

The [Association of Performing Arts Presenters](#) has added a new funding round to the 2009-10 Cultural Exchange Fund travel subsidy program supported by the [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#). The new funding round will provide for travel taking place between December 2009 and June 2010.

The Cultural Exchange Fund is designed to assist U.S.-based presenters in building partnerships and collaborations with international touring artists, companies, and their

collaborators and in seeing the work of artists from around the world in its cultural context. In promoting cross-cultural arts programming, Arts Presenters strongly encourages travel to the following locations, including but not limited to, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

Arts Presenters will award travel subsidies to individual presenters, presenting organizations, and to groups of presenters traveling to see the work of artists, companies, and/or to develop and advance projects with international artists and their collaborators. All applicants must be active members of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters.

For-profit organizations are not eligible for Cultural Exchange funds. The Cultural Exchange Fund does not fund artists that are performing or traveling to meet with international presenters about performance opportunities, nor does it fund managers, agents or producers working to expand business rosters.

Arts Presenters will fund individual travel subsidies and group travel subsidies. The maximum amount awarded per individual organization, inclusive of travel costs and per diem, is \$2,000 each. Group travel subsidies will be awarded only to groups of three or more presenters from different member presenting organizations. The maximum award for a group is \$10,000 each, with no more than \$2,000 awarded per organization. All applicants applying for group travel must designate a lead partner organization. The lead partner organization must be a presenter or presenting organization.

Visit the Arts Presenters Web site for complete program information.

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp\\_item.jhtml?id=267100012](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=267100012)

## **The Iowa NonProfit Summit: Turning Challenge Into Opportunity**

Monday, November 16, 2009 8:30 am - 4:45 pm (Central Time)

State Historical Building  
600 East Locust Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309

The theme of the Iowa Nonprofit Summit is "Turning Challenge into Opportunity." With the 2008 floods and downturned economy there are increased demands on nonprofits both in demand for services and decreased funding from all revenue sources. The costs of holding this statewide nonprofit conference are being kept minimal in order to increase accessibility by small nonprofit organizations.

### **Conference Topics include:**

Collaborations among nonprofits and with community colleges, local and state government, and business.

Strengthening, diversifying and engaging boards of directors

New volunteer solutions including Iowa's new Volunteer Recruitment and Management Portal  
Structuring internships and the ways to access good interns  
Communication with constituencies including marketing, public relations, and advocacy for individual organizations and the nonprofit sector as a whole.  
Use of social networking.  
Gathering metric and outcome data to build strong funding proposals and public accountability

### **Conference Rates**

Registration: \$50.00 per person

Exhibit Table space is available for an additional \$50.00 (only 10 spots available!)

Online registration ends at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 2, 2009. After this date, on site registration will be accepted on a space-available basis.

Free parking for this event is available in the parking garage located at 650 E Grand.

Register now at [www.Regonline.com/npsummit2009](http://www.Regonline.com/npsummit2009).

### **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**

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**

**This week's Wow is a Triple Whammy. Those of you that know me know that I'm a huge fan of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the hard working folks there. Here are three reasons why:**

You wouldn't believe the lengths people travel to learn how to care for historic properties in their communities! On September 17 and 18, the State Historic Preservation Office held a

workshop in Muscatine with preservation information ranging from advocacy and financial incentives to detailed instructions on how to prepare a nomination for listing a property on the *National Register of Historic Places*. Forty people attended the workshop on Thursday, with attendees traveling from a few blocks away to 225 miles.

Did you know the State Historic Preservation Office reviews *federally funded projects* throughout the state? From **federal** highway funding to **federal** disaster aid, all projects that have the potential to affect historic properties come through the office in one way or another. Only 9 months into this year, they have already received almost 1800 submittals. Wow!

Tama County, Osceola, and Manning are the state's newest *Certified Local Governments*, bringing the total number of Iowa's CLGs to 104! The State Historic Preservation Office encourages communities to start preservation efforts at the local level for the most successful results. Find out more about the program at <http://www.iowahistory.org/historic-preservation/local-preservation/index.html>.

You can learn more about the SHPO and all they do for historic preservation by clicking here: <http://www.iowahistory.org/historic-preservation/index.html>

Have a great week!

--Deirdre